嘘喰い

uso ui

8

迫稔雄

嘘喰い uso ui

8

迫稔雄

YJ ヤンジャン YJC

嘘喰い 8

迫稔雄

集英社

倶楽部賭郎を力で乗っ取るべく
動き出した謎の犯罪組織"アイデアル"!
賭郎外務卿・泉江も欺く黒耳の悪魔が
高らかに笑う中、その場へ現れたのは!?
一方、億単位の金を稼げるギャンブルの情報を
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uso ui

8

迫稔雄

sako toshio presents

嘘喰

uso gui

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喰狼

contents

この作品はフィクションです。
実在の人物・団体・事件などには
いっさい関係ありません。

斑目貘（まだらめばく）

The story up until now...

Madarame Baku became a Kakerou member once more after winning the Kakerou game in the abandoned mine and striking a deal with the leader. However, just as the leader predicted, a movement has started behind the scenes to establish a new organization with even more power than the police. Meanwhile, obscured by Baku and the others' game, the crime syndicate Ideal is making a secret move to get in touch with Kakerou. Now is the time to raise the curtains to the grand battle of organizations!

Marco

Kaji Takaomi

登場人物紹介

Mizue Yuuko

Setsuma Souichi

Yakou Hikoichi

Kyara

Nouwa Mitoshi

Billy Craig

喰喰

第76話
慈悲深き者
Merciful One

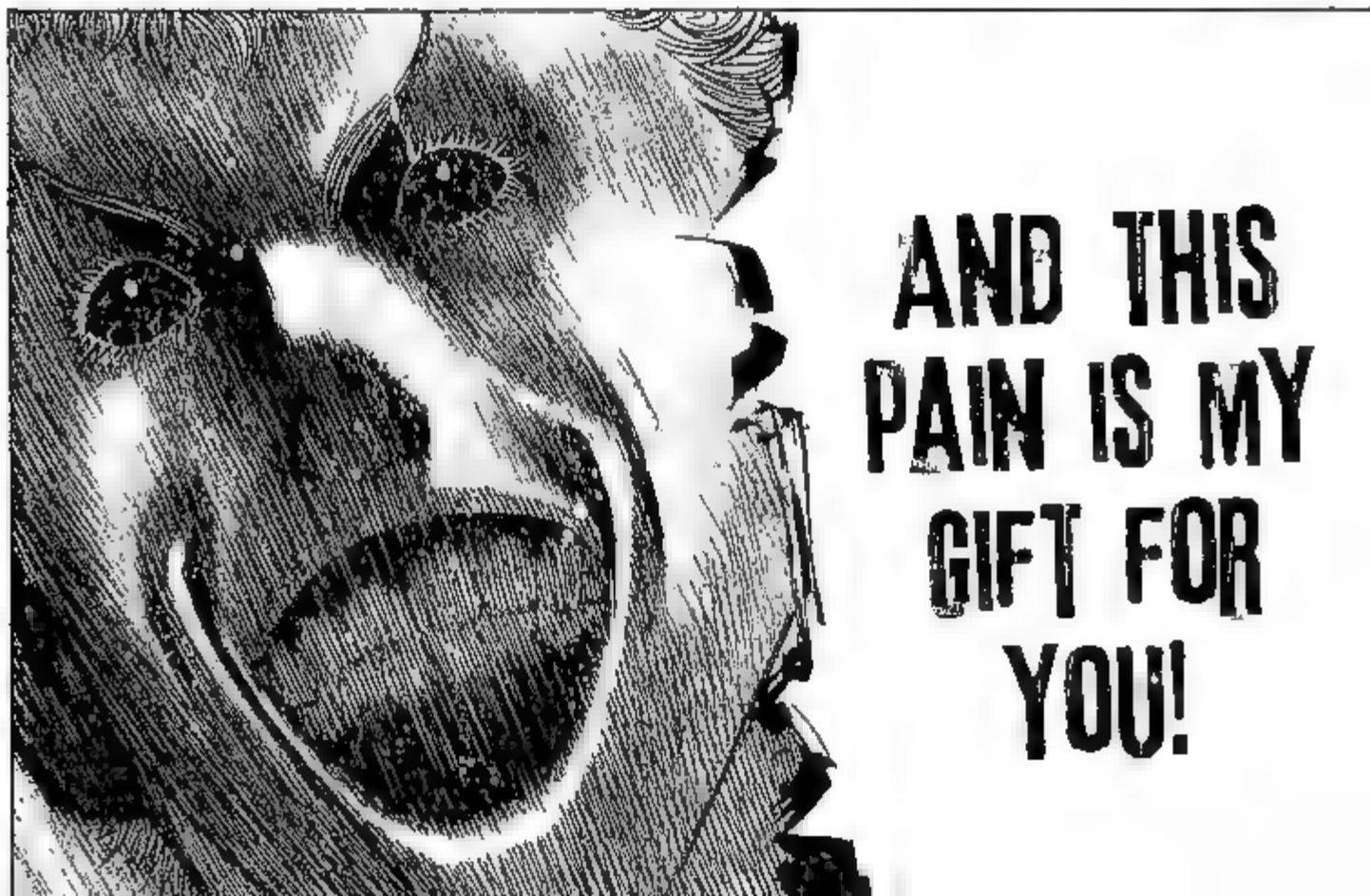
MR. CRAIG...
THIS IS THE END.

WHOOSH
SMACK
SMACK

OOPS!
!!
TAP

.....
SINCE I'M A MERCIFUL GUY.
YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL —

IT'S BECAUSE YOU ARE ALIVE!
!!
DO YOU WONDER, WHY YOU ARE ABLE TO FEEL GREAT PAIN?
CLENCH
CLENCH


AND THIS PAIN IS MY GIFT FOR YOU!

OH DEAR, PLEASE BE CAREFUL WHEN I'M IN FRONT OF YOU...
RUSTLE

THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN UNTIE THAT ROPE ...
UNLESS YOU'RE A MAGICIAN.
PULL

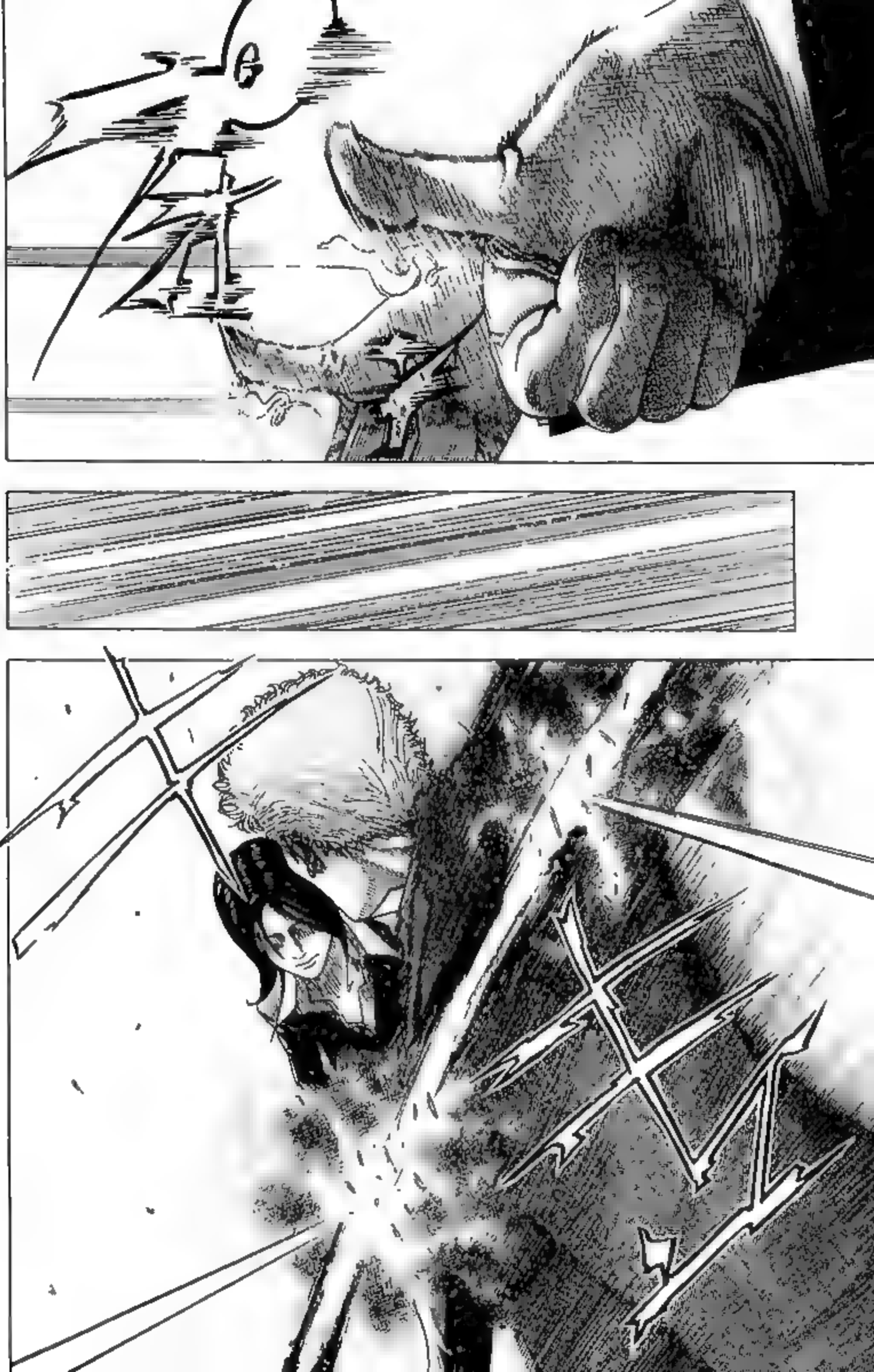
IT SEEMS LIKE THIS PEACH IS UNEXPECT-EDLY TOUGH.
BUT... GIVEN YOUR CONDITION, YOU'RE PROBABLY DOING ALL YOU CAN JUST TO STAY BALANCED
OH! I SEE NOW.
!

THERE WILL BE A MOMENT WHEN THOSE CLEAR EYES OF YOURS WILL GET CLOUDY...
LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING.
IT WILL BE JUST BEFORE YOUR DEATH!

FUUUCK!
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO SHOW UP NOW...?! YOU'RE INTERRUP-TING MY...
!
SHOW-TIME!
!

WHEN THOSE BALLS HIT FROM BEHIND, EVEN I'LL BE DONE FOR!
.....
.....

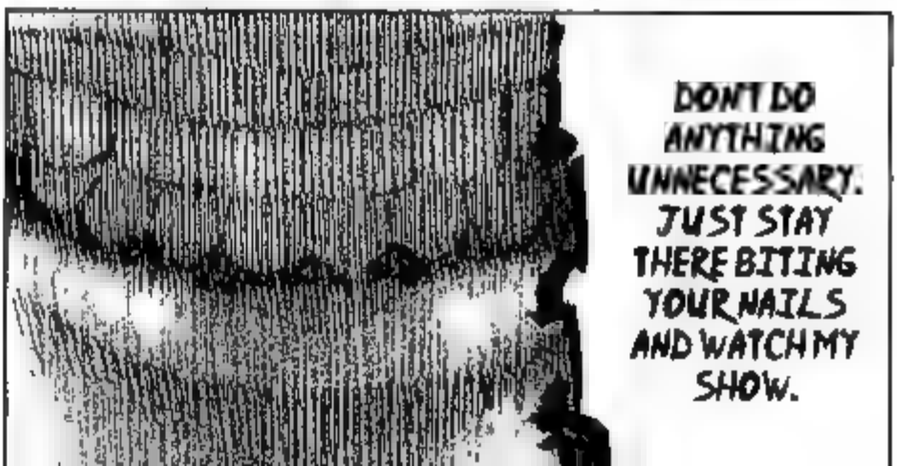
I'D BE SO HAPPY IF YOU COULD JUST QUIETLY DIED OVER THERE!



HAH HAH!
JUST KIDDIN'!
ARGH!

LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING ...

I'M NOT SO SENILE THAT I'D LET MYSELF BE HIT BY THOSE TINY BALLS!
THAT WAS A JOKE, SORRY!
.....


DON'T DO ANYTHING UNNECESSARY. JUST STAY THERE BITING YOUR NAILS AND WATCH MY SHOW.

.....
MAGIC...?
KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED
...
AND WATCH ME DO SOME MAGIC.
Magic!
THAT'S RIGHT..
FROM HERE ON... ONCE I COMPLETELY RESTRAIN YOUR MOVEMENT, THE MAIN SHOW WILL START.
NAH, I DON'T WANNA SEE ANY!
THAT'S WHY I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE ON YOUR MA...

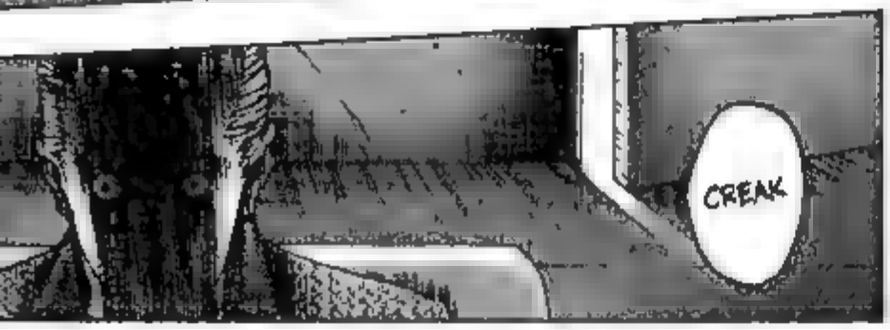
اياهاه!

HOW...? YOU JUST... USED YOUR LEFT LEG TO THROW A KICK.
?
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE HAD TIME TO FREE YOURSELF AGAINST ME.
THAT'S NO MAGIC...
...WHEN IT WAS TIED WITH YOUR LEFT HAND...
NO... I GOT IT NOW...
I CUT THEM WHEN I WAS IN MID-AIR AT THE START.
I KNEW IT!
FLAP
AND I'VE BEEN ONLY HOLDING THEM SINCE.
WEREN'T CONNECTED TO EACH OTHER IN THE FIRST PLACE. THAT MUST BE IT!
THE ROPE ON YOUR WRIST AND THE ONE THAT SEIZED YOU...

HONESTLY, I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU...
WHY DID YOU REVEAL THAT RIGHT AFTER CALLING IT MAGIC?
OR, DID YOU REALLY THINK THAT YOU COULD'VE CRUSHED ME WITH ONLY THAT ONE KICK?
I SEE... IN OTHER WORDS,
YOU'VE BEEN ACTING AS IF YOU WERE UNDER MY CONTROL ALL ALONG.
ARE YOU BLIND?
YOUR RIGHT LEG...
STILL ISN'T FREE FROM THE ROPE... AND THE SHOW IS STILL ON.
YOU'RE... A MORON.
.....

I TOLD THAT I CUT IT IN MID-AIR, DIDN'T I?
I'VE BEEN CUTTING SUCH STUFF THIS WHOLE TIME.

SORRY, BUT YOUR SHOW'S OVER. BESIDES...
THE FIREWORKS TO BE LAUNCHED WILL BE YOUR LIFE...
THERE'S A REASON I DIDN'T BRING YOU DOWN WITH THE FIRST KICK.
IT WAS THE LEAST BIT OF MERCY I HAD FOR YOU WHO CAME HERE IN SUCH HIGH SPIRITS.

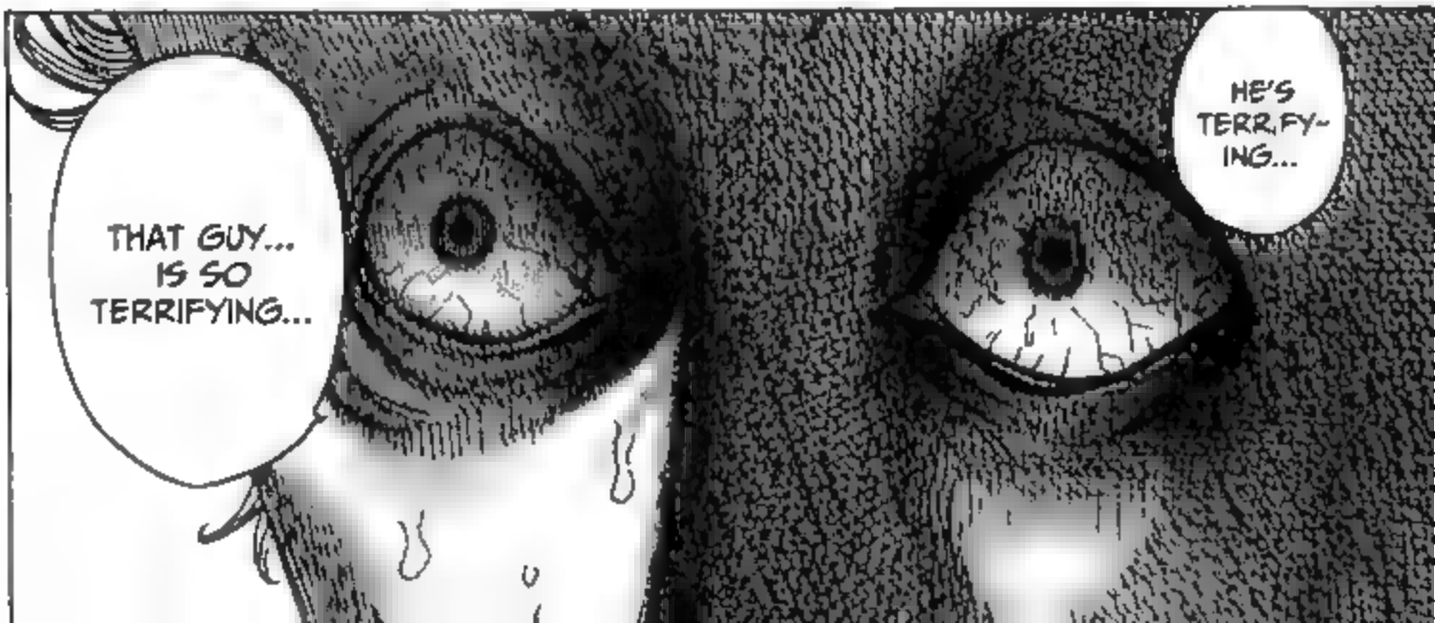


"PROOFER'S NOTE IT'S A [redacted] ROUTINE BY YOSHIO KOJIMA. FAMOUS FOR APPEARING IN A SMALL BATHING SUIT. HIS CATCH PHRASES "THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT" AND "OPAP!" WHICH STANDS FOR OCEAN PACIFIC PEACE. AND THEN DANCING RANDOMLY AFTER SAYING THEM. YEAH I DON'T GET IT EITHER.

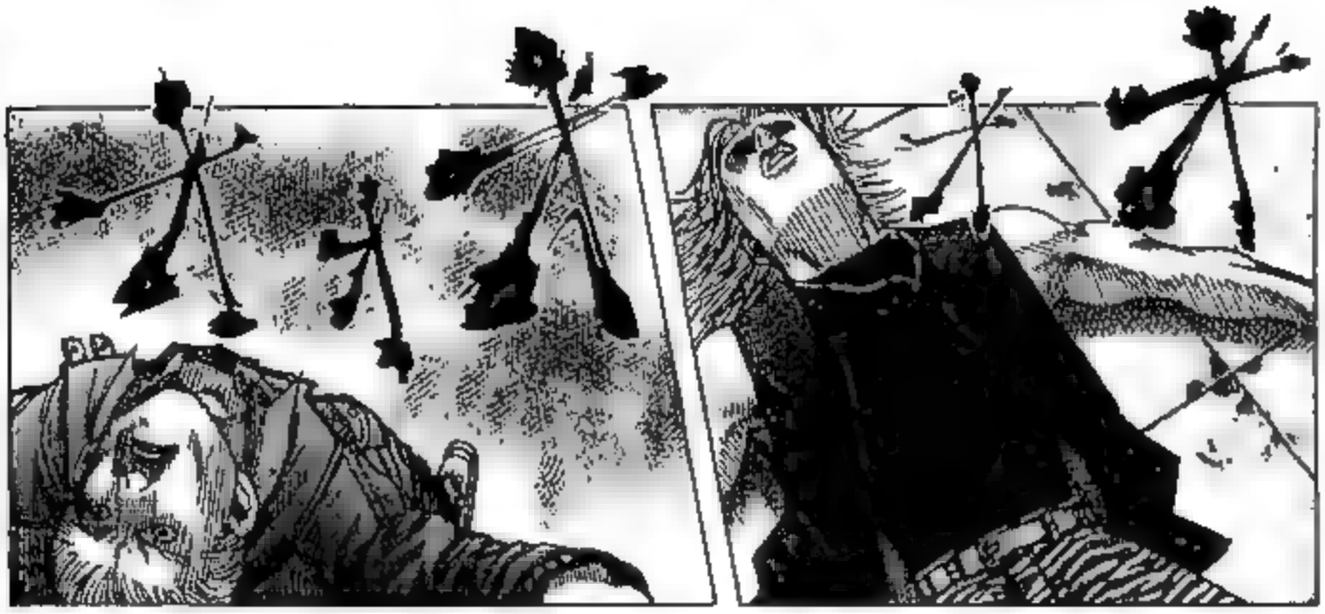
.....
LOOKING AT YOUR CONDITION, I CAN EASILY TELL THAT YOU HAVEN'T SLEPT AT ALL...
IT'S ME, BUDDY.. YOU BETTER NOT START SHOOTING HERE. WE DON'T WANT A HUGE COMMOTION DO WE?

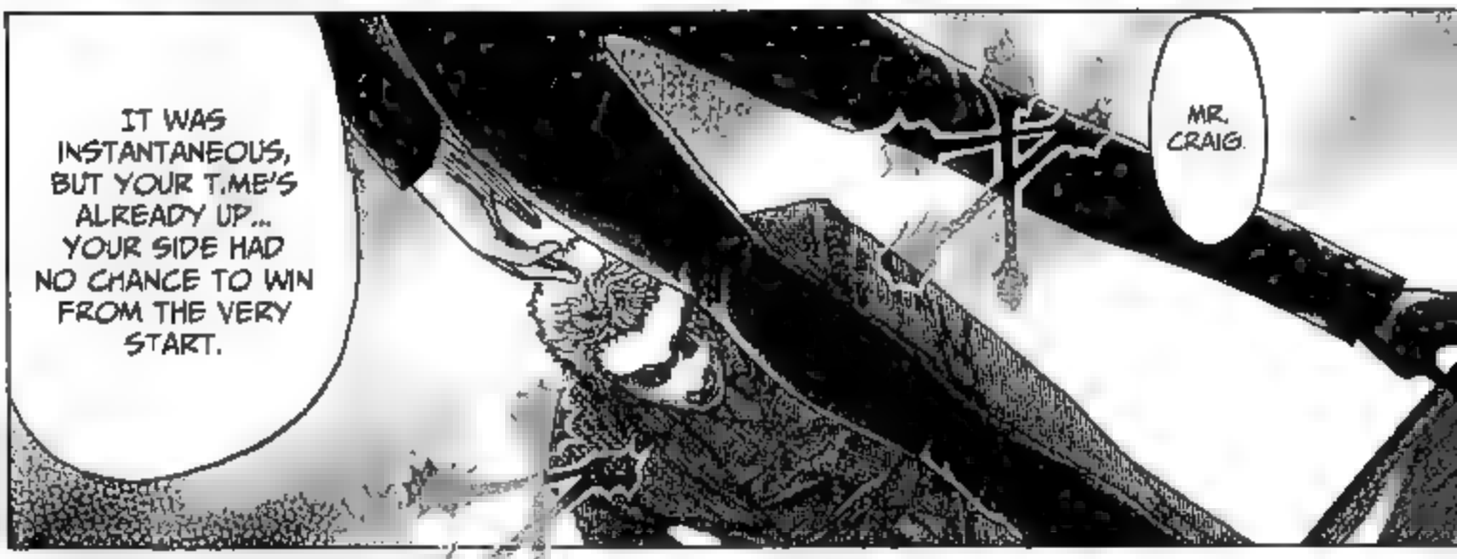
I LOST TRACK OF HOW MANY BOTTLES I'VE HAD SO FAR.
HAHA . I CAN'T GET DRUNK, NO MATTER HOW MUCH I DRINK...

IF IT REACHES THEIR EARS...
BUT YOU KNOW... IF THE FACT THAT I'M STILL ALIVE..
I'M DEEPLY GRATEFUL ESPECIALLY FOR FINDING ME IN THAT SEA OF FORESTS.
KYARA-KUN... I'M NOT SAYING THAT YOU'RE UNRELIABLE...
IN FACT, YOU'RE THE BEST BODYGUARD I HAVE...
...


THAT GUY... IS SO TERRIFYING...
HE'S TERRIFYING...

第77話
DIE YOBBO



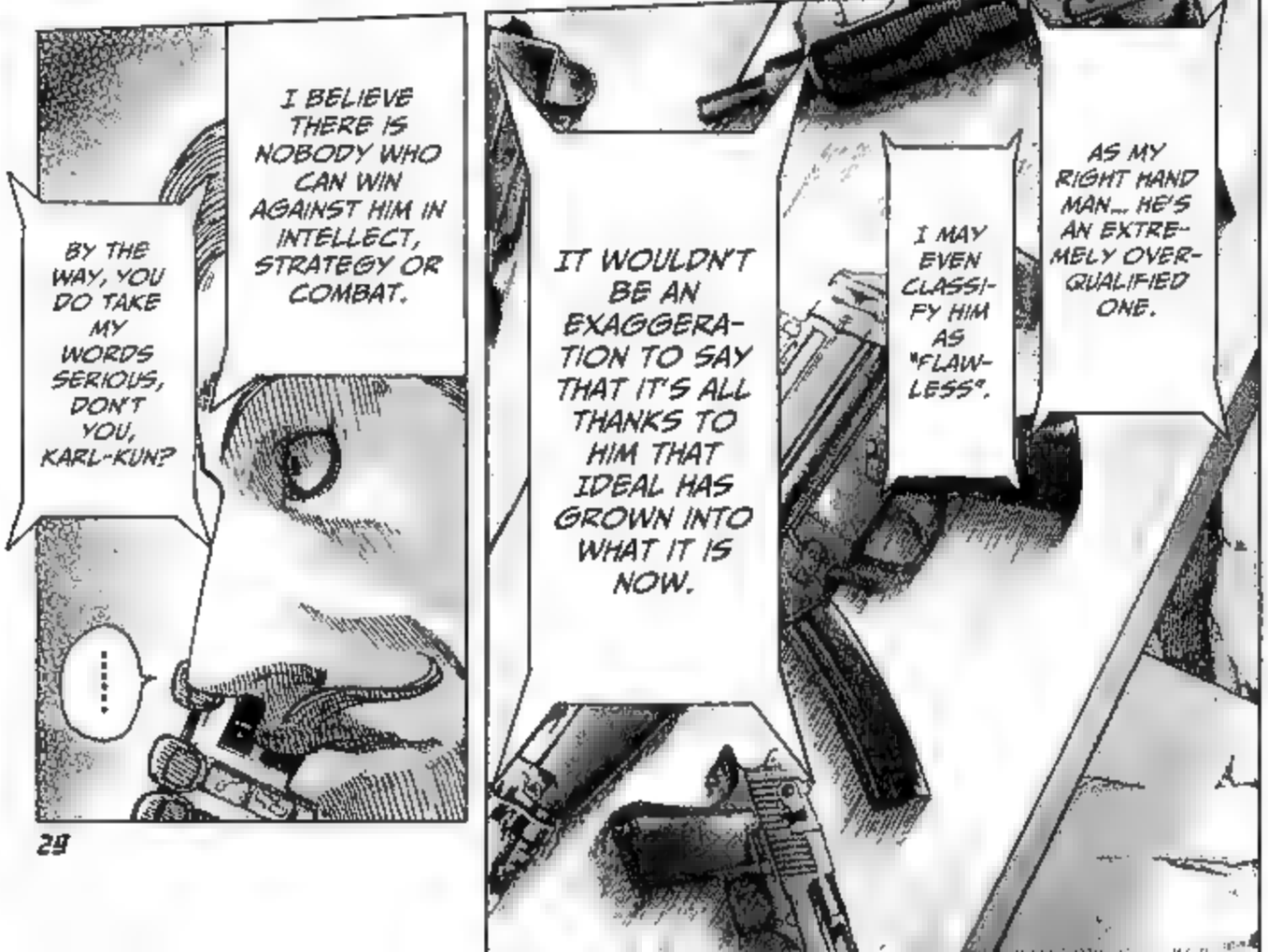

MR. CRAIG.
IT WAS INSTANTANEOUS, BUT YOUR TIME'S ALREADY UP... YOUR SIDE HAD NO CHANCE TO WIN FROM THE VERY START.

.....

THIS PLACE WAS ALSO ALREADY UNDER SURVEILLANCE BY OUR TROOPS.
AND THOSE TWO OTHER COMRADES YOU LEFT OUTSIDE CAN BE CAPTURED ANY TIME WE WISH, SO YOU'D BETTER NOT RELY ON THEM... BESIDES,
"IDEAL" WILL ALSO BE WIPED OUT VERY SOON...

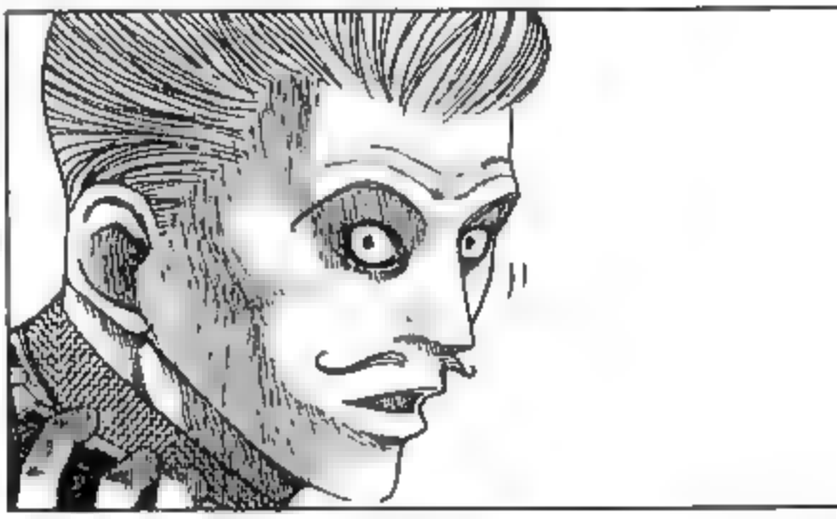
AND ANOTHER ONE, WHOM IDEAL OFFERED...
YOU, AN EX-REFEREE FROM THE JAPANESE GAMBLING ORGANIZATION KAKEROU,
...
THIS WAS WAY BEFORE YOU BECAME MY CONTRACTED BODYGUARD..
BEFORE I CAME TO JAPAN...

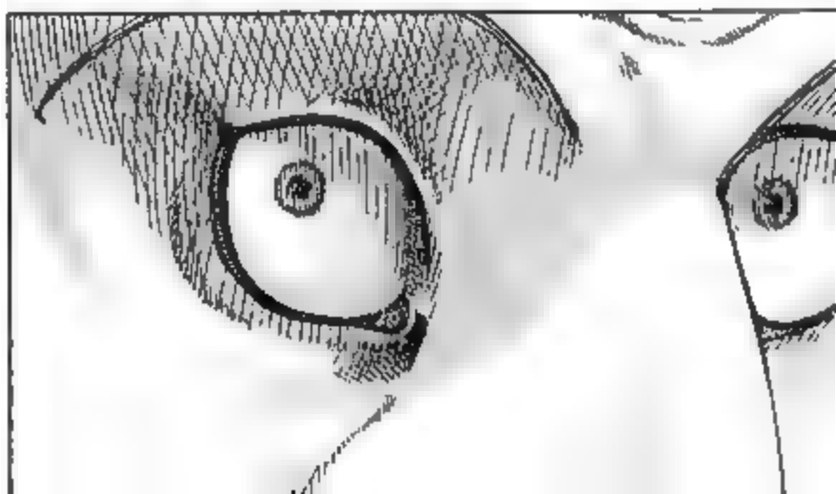
IF YOU NEED A CAPABLE SUPPORTER, I CAN INTRODUCE ONE.
KARL-KUN. I EXPECT THIS PLAN TO BE IMPLEMENTED PERFECTLY
I WAS PLANNING TO CONTRACT EITHER YOU OR HIM AS MY GUARD...

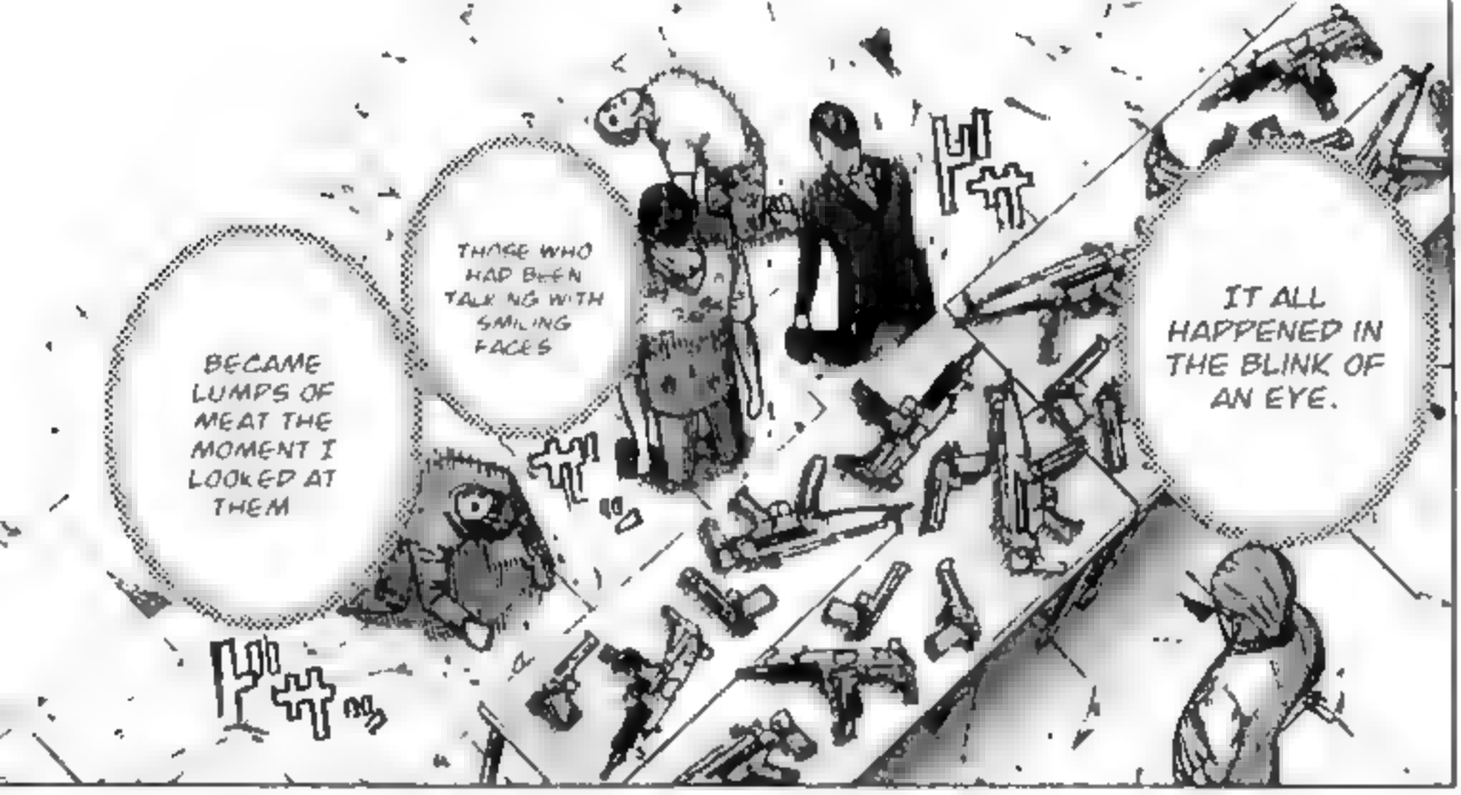

BY THE WAY, YOU DO TAKE MY WORDS SERIOUS, DON'T YOU, KARL-KUN?
I BELIEVE THERE IS NOBODY WHO CAN WIN AGAINST HIM IN INTELLECT, STRATEGY OR COMBAT.
.....
IT WOULDN'T BE AN EXAGGERATION TO SAY THAT IT'S ALL THANKS TO HIM THAT IDEAL HAS GROWN INTO WHAT IT IS NOW.
I MAY EVEN CLASSIFY HIM AS "FLAWLESS".
AS MY RIGHT HAND MAN... HE'S AN EXTREMELY OVER-QUALIFIED ONE.

ACCORDING TO MY INFORMERS, IT SEEMS THAT MAN INTENDS TO POCKET HIS PAYMENT AND GET RID OF YOU
THE OTHER PARTY MUST BE THAT L.A. PUNK OF JAPANESE DESCENT, MASU K JUUIN, RIGHT?
I BET YOU'RE WORKING HARD WITH YOUR WEAPONS DEALING RIGHT NOW
WELL THEN, KARL-KUN.

TO ERASE MASU KIJUUIN'S EXISTENCE.
I FIGURED THIS WAS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY... SO I MADE THE REQUEST TO HIM





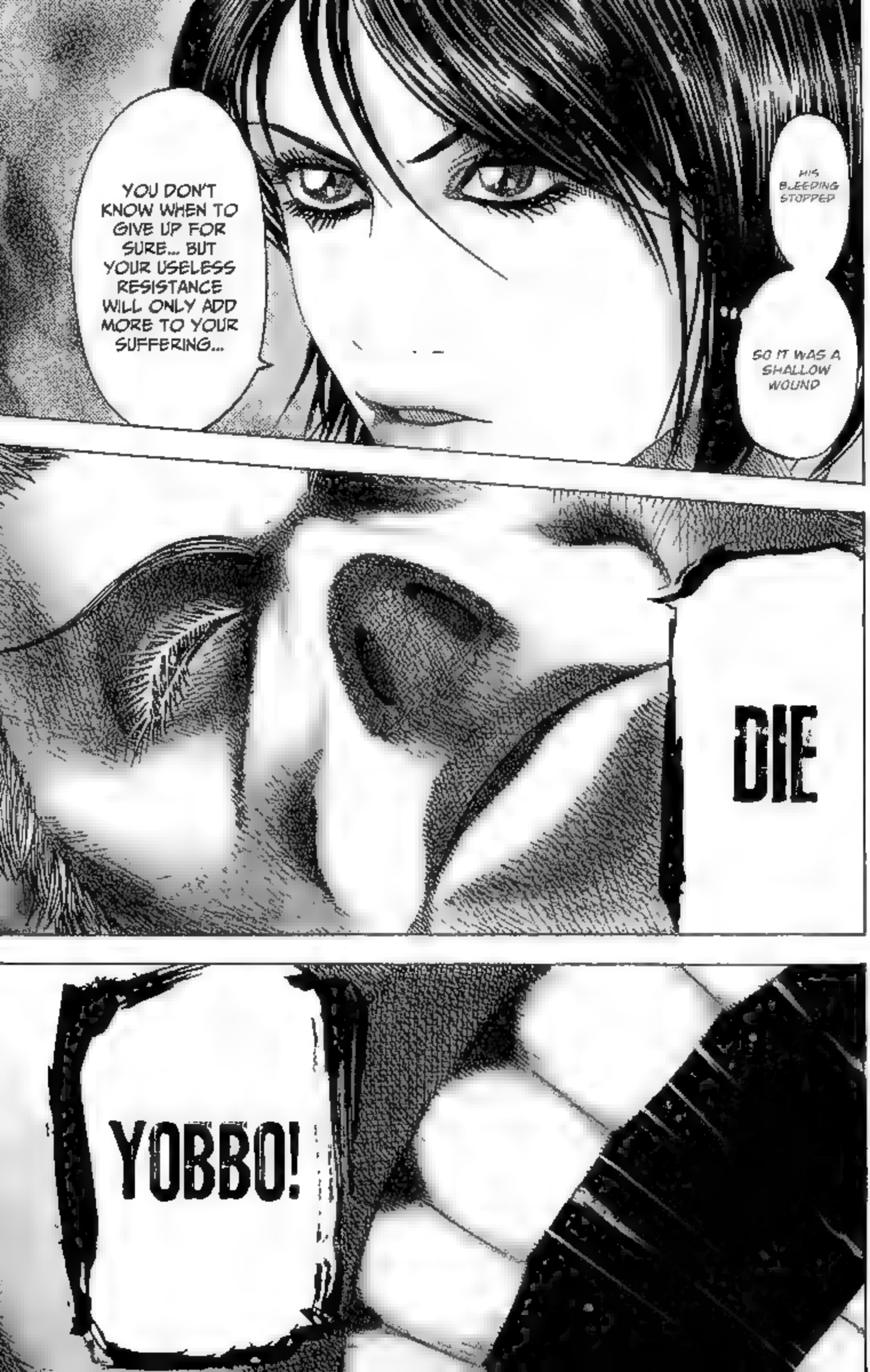

BECAME LUMPS OF MEAT THE MOMENT I LOOKED AT THEM
THOSE WHO HAD BEEN TALKING WITH SMILING FACES
IT ALL HAPPENED IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

A PLACE WHERE NOT EVEN A SINGLE RAT COULD ENTER !
IN OUR HEAVILY FORTIFIED LOCATION FOR OUR DEALINGS,
MOREOVER... THAT GUY SUDDENLY APPEARED...

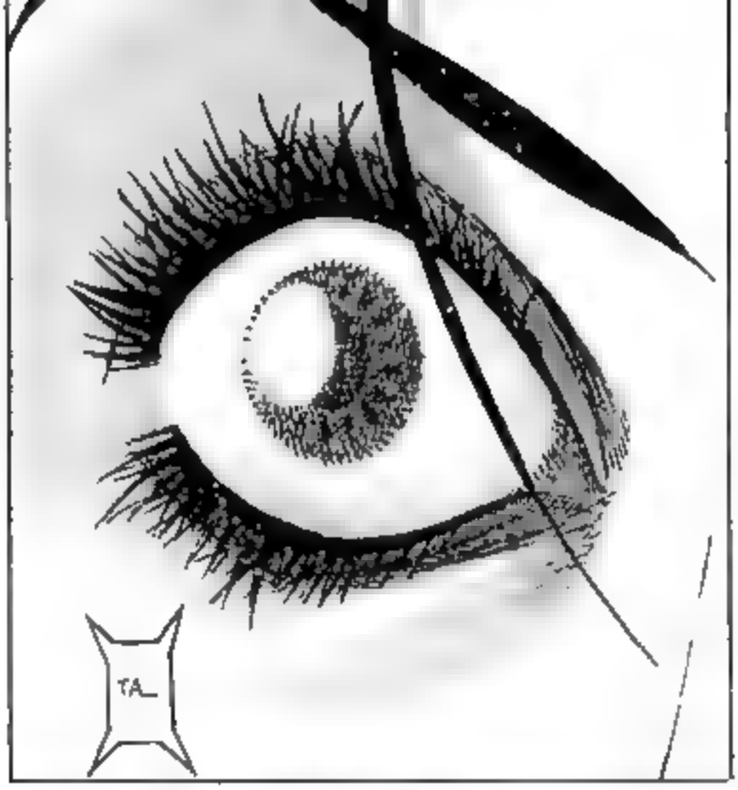
I'VE SEEN NUMEROUS DEATHS AS A WEAPONS DEALER, BUT EVEN I WAS TREMBLING AS A ROOKIE THAT DAY... YET, MASU KIJUUIN...
HE IS A PERFECT BEING.
HIDDEN BEHIND HIS SMILE, HE HAS BOTH THE POWER AND THE INTELLECT OF THE DEVIL.
KARL-KUN... THAT GUY CAN PLAY WITH HIS SOCIAL STATUS OR APPEARANCE AND APPEAR ANYWHERE AT ANY TIME.

HE WAS HOLDING THE MONEY... THAT HE WAS GOING TO POCKET? THAT'S BULLSHIT.
THAT MASSACRE WAS NOTHING BUT A MESSAGE TO ME: "THIS IS WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO YOU IF YOUR PLANS FAIL."
OHH... UUGH... S-SO FRIGHTENING ...

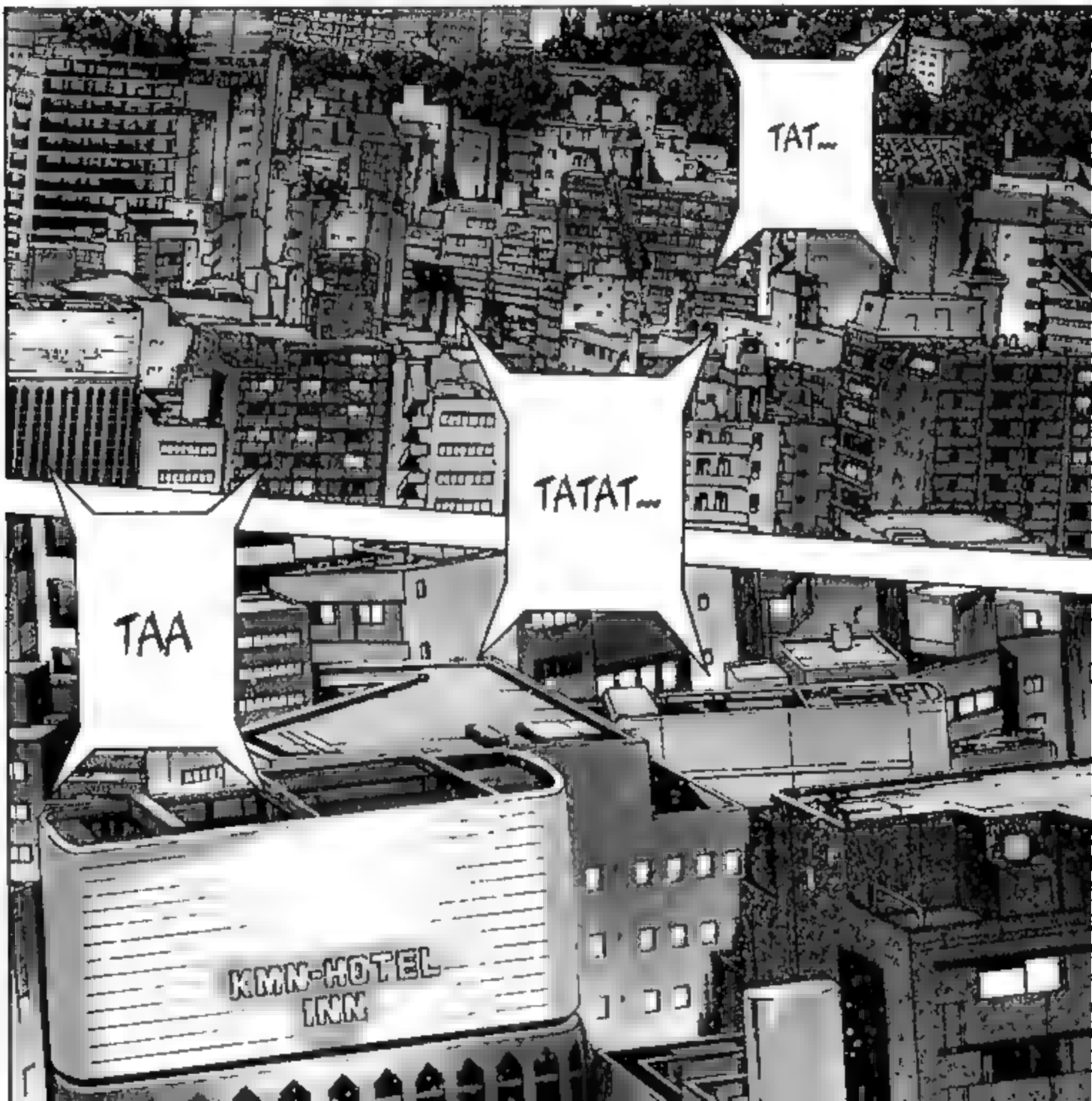
THAT DEATH BRINGING...
!
BLACK-EARED DEVIL IS...


YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN TO GIVE UP FOR SURE... BUT YOUR USELESS RESISTANCE WILL ONLY ADD MORE TO YOUR SUFFERING...
HIS BLEEDING STOPPED
SO IT WAS A SHALLOW WOUND
DIE
YOBBO!

PROOFER'S NOTE: YOBBO IS SLANG FOR A CRUDE WORKING-CLASS PERSON, DERIVED FROM BACK SLANG READING OF "BOY" BACK SLANG IS LITERALLY WORDS THAT ARE READ BACKWARDS TO HIDE THEIR MEANING.


TA_

…?


TAT…
TATAT…
TAA
KMN-HOTEL
INN

CA... CAN YOU HEAR US?
RATA TATA-TAT

IT'S MOST LIKELY DUE TO SNIPING... ONE THIRD OF THE GUARDS ARE OUT OF COMMISSION.
THERE WAS A RAID.
FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER MIZUE! TRANSMISSION WITH THE WAREHOUSE SURVEILLANCE PERSONNEL IS CUT DOWN.

YOU COULD'VE POSITIONED LOTS OF SOLDIERS IN THIS SHORT TIME.
YOUR ORGANIZATION HAS AMAZING POWER. HOWEVER...
IN CONTRARY TO OUR EXPECTATIONS FROM A GAMBLING ORGANIZATION,
TOTALLY DIDN'T EXPECT THIS.

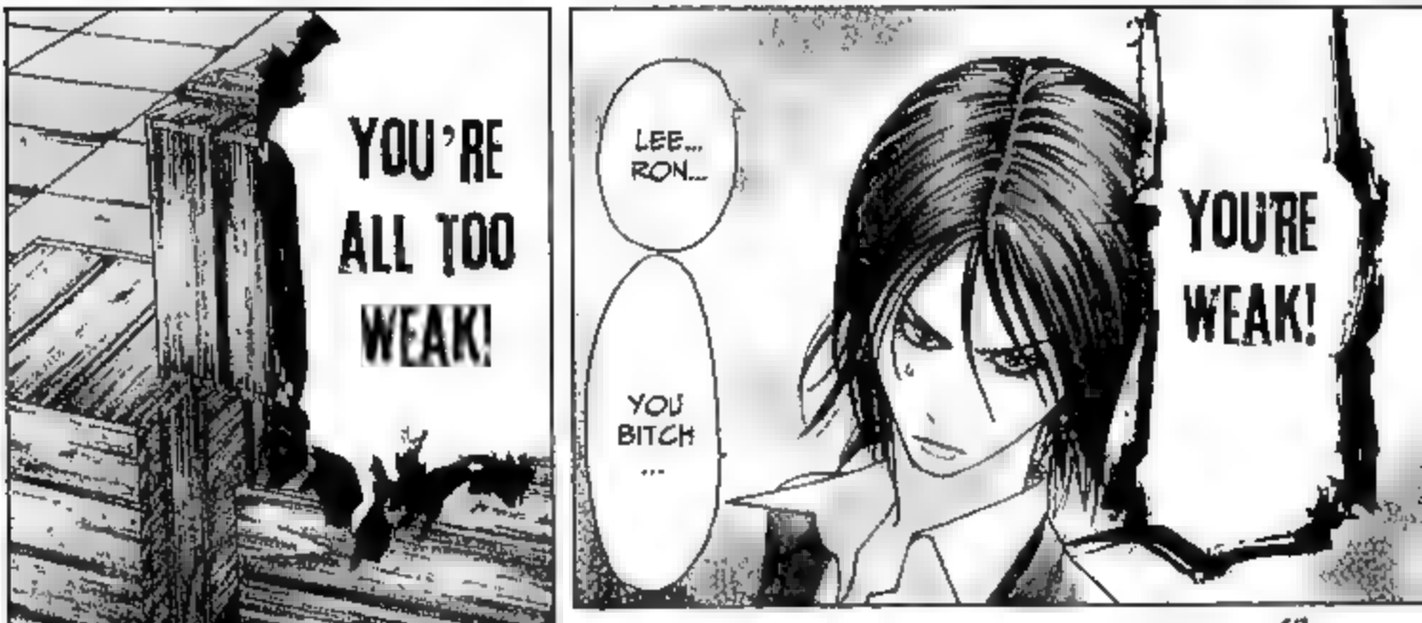
DID YOU THINK WE WOULD COME HERE WITH ONLY 5 PEOPLE...?
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU ALL TOOK US A LITTLE LIGHTLY.
DID YOU SIMPLY SWALLOW THAT MADE UP INFORMATION YOU GOT WITHOUT QUESTIONING ANYTHING?
ABOUT MY TWO GUYS OUTSIDE... DON'T YOU THINK YOU WERE TOO PREOCCUPIED WITH EVERYTHING HERE THAT YOU WERE LATE IN NOTICING MY PAWNS?

YOU SAY THAT PROUDLY BUT WHAT YOU THINK WE MISSED IS ALREADY WITHIN OUR ASSUMPTIONS.
I DIDN'T THINK THAT BOTH OUR STRATEGIES WOULD BE MUCH DIFFERENT, BUT... TO THINK THAT HE USED THE TWO GUYS OUTSIDE AS BAITS... THIS MAN...
THAT STALEMATE OUTSIDE WON'T KEEP ON FOR MUCH LONGER... AND, IN EITHER CASE...

THIS IS YOUR END.

LAND
LAND
!!
DIE
YOBBO!

.....
.....
DIE YOBBO!
HAH HA!
WOOSH
WOOSH


YOU'RE ALL TOO WEAK!
LEE... RON...
YOU BITCH ...
YOU'RE WEAK!

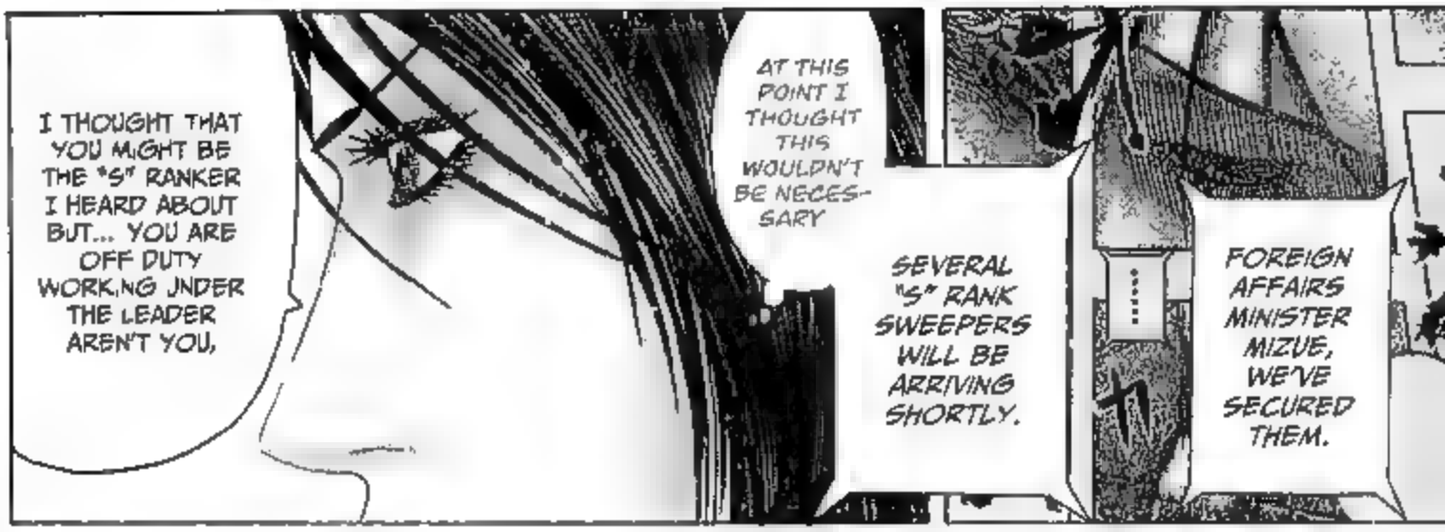
IN CONTRAST TO MY EXPECTATIONS, HE ISN'T A BIG DEAL.
IN THIS FIRST ENCOUNTER, I HAD THE CHANCE TO EVALUATE KAKEROU'S POWER... AND ITS COUNTERATTACKING POTENTIAL!

I WANTED TO HAVE HIM AS MY PAWN SO BAD, BUT... WHAT A WASTE...
THAT CARACAL GUY... SEEMS TO BE A COMBINATION OF GOOD OLD USOGUI AND BRUTE POWER...

STILL, JUST AS PLANNED... THIS IS KAKEROU'S VICTORY...

HA HA HA
HA... HA.
!
HEY MIZUE...
IS *THIS* THE TRASH THAT I'M SUPPOSED TO SWEEP?

第78話
野望の群れ
Ambitious Group
IS THIS THE TRASH ...
.....
THAT I'M SUPPOSED TO SWEEP?
AT THAT POINT...
UNLESS YOU'RE A MAGICIAN


I THOUGHT THAT YOU MIGHT BE THE "S" RANKER I HEARD ABOUT BUT... YOU ARE OFF DUTY WORKING UNDER THE LEADER AREN'T YOU,
AT THIS POINT I THOUGHT THIS WOULDN'T BE NECESSARY
SEVERAL "S" RANK SWEEPERS WILL BE ARRIVING SHORTLY.
FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER MIZUE, WE'VE SECURED THEM.

SWEEPER YAKOU JOUICHI.

SACRIFICES WERE MADE, BUT WE SUCCESSFULLY BOUGHT SOME TIME FOR THE "S" RANK SWEEPERS TO ARRIVE
AND THEY WILL BEGIN THEIR EARLY SPRING CLEANING OF THIS ENTIRE PLACE.
SWEEPERS WILL EVENTUALLY GATHER HERE ONE AFTER ANOTHER.
I'M ORDERING YOU TO...
AS KAKEROU'S MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS... SWEEPER YAKOL.
PURGE THAT TRASH.

HEY YOU, LISTEN.
I AM JUST WONDERING ...

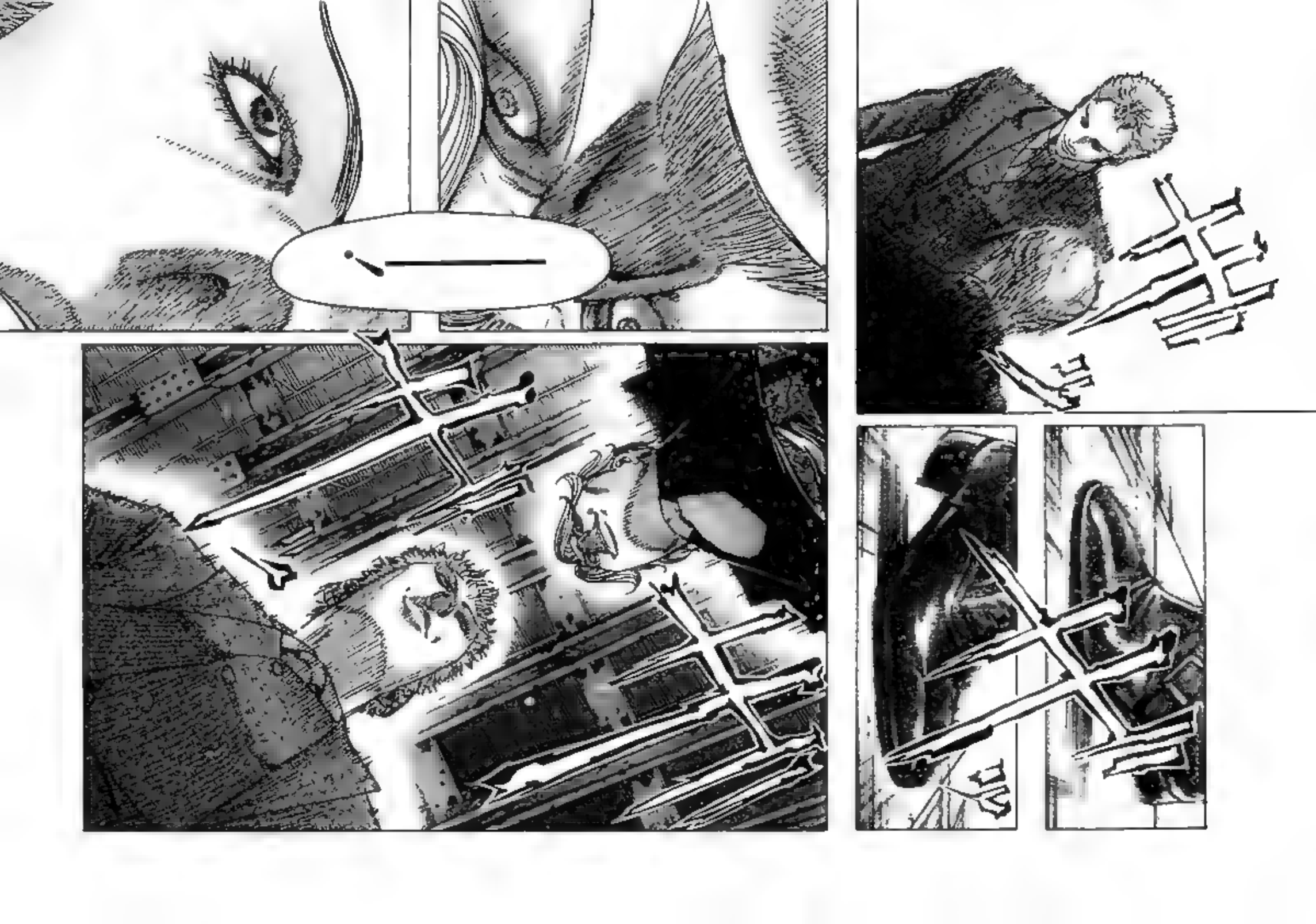
!
HEY,

YOU SEEM LIKE...
ARE YOU ARMED...? YOU'RE NOT BARE HANDED, ARE YOU... HAHAHA, I'M JUST KIDDIN'...

GRAMPS.
.....
YOU'RE ALSO A HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT FREAK.

IS THIS TRASH...
TALKING TO ME?
WHAT'S THAT?
.....
YOU JUST CALLED ME TRASH... WHICH MEANS...
WHAT DID YOU SAY JUST NOW? ABOUT ME...?
OH!
ピク
AGING MUST HAVE TURNED YOU INTO AN EMPTY PIECE OF SHIT!
.....
YOU MUST BE ONE OF MY KIND... SINCE YOU CAN EASILY UNDERSTAND...
TRASH TALK...

YOU'VE GOT SOME BALLS, YOUNGSTER.
YOU'RE WORTH SWEEPING UP.

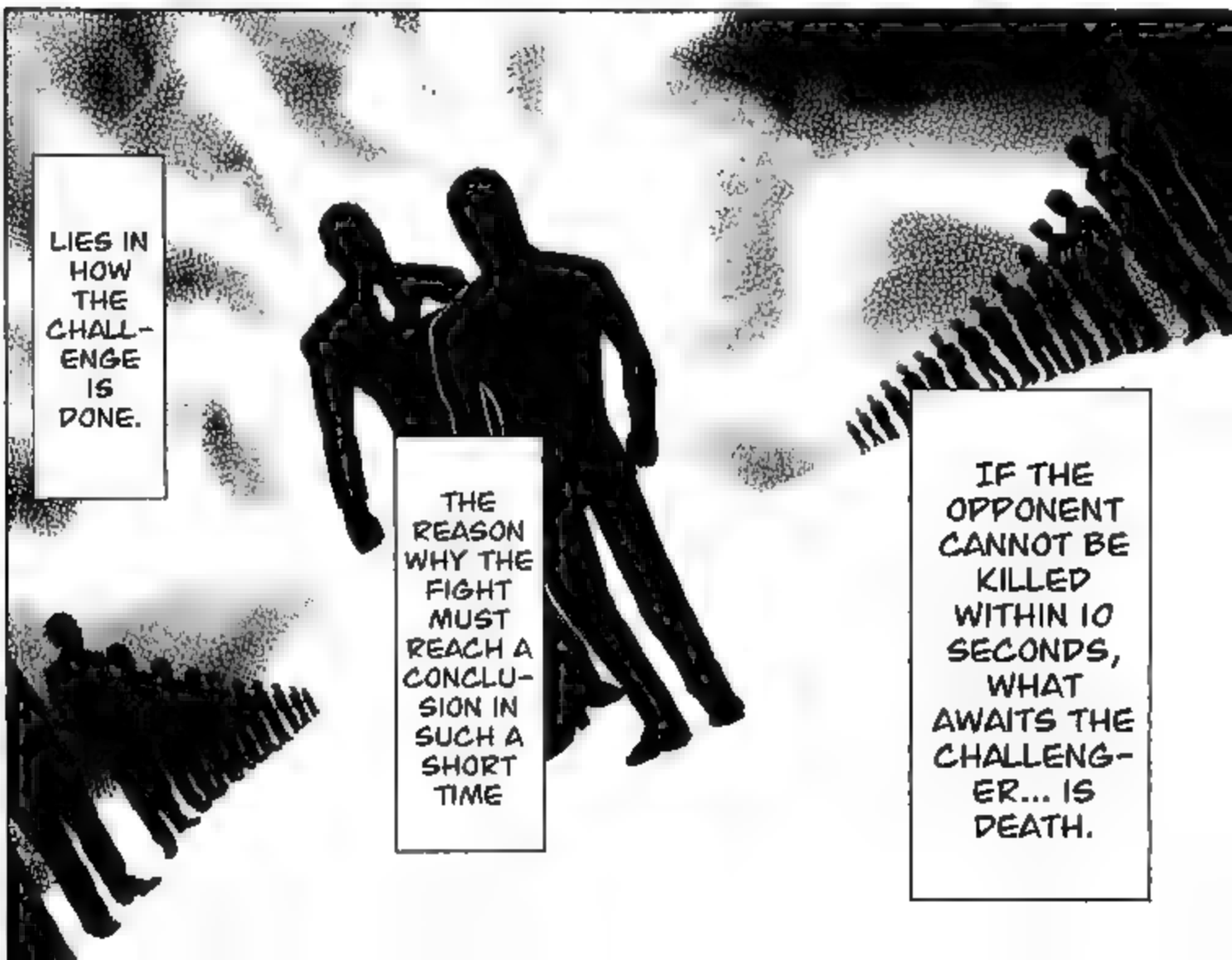


Rank

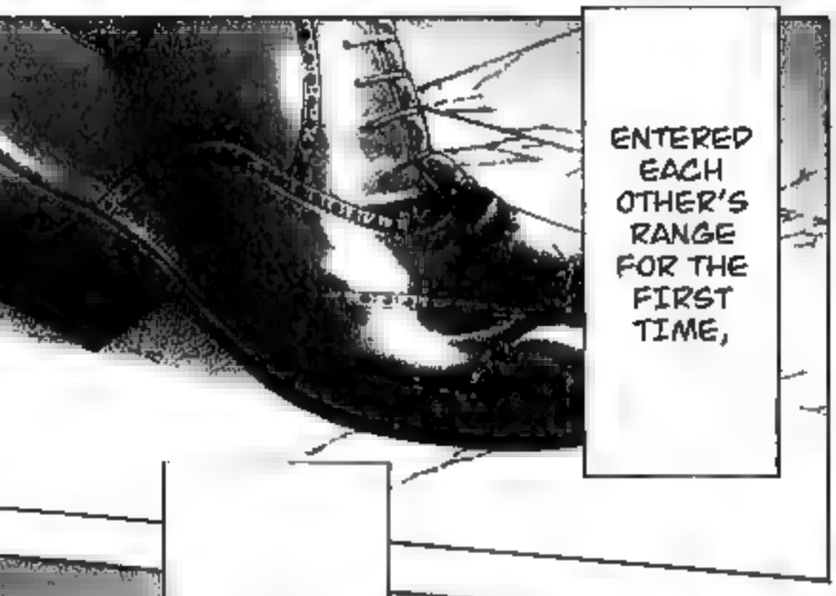
昇

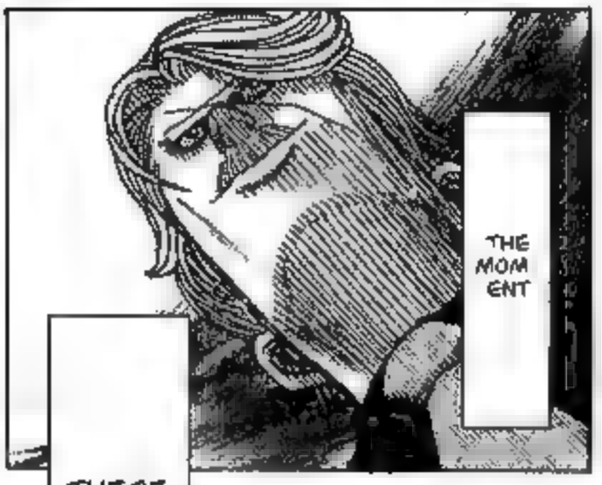
THE CHALLENGE OF RANKS FOR REFEREES SEEKING A HIGHER POSITION CROSSED YAKOU'S MIND.

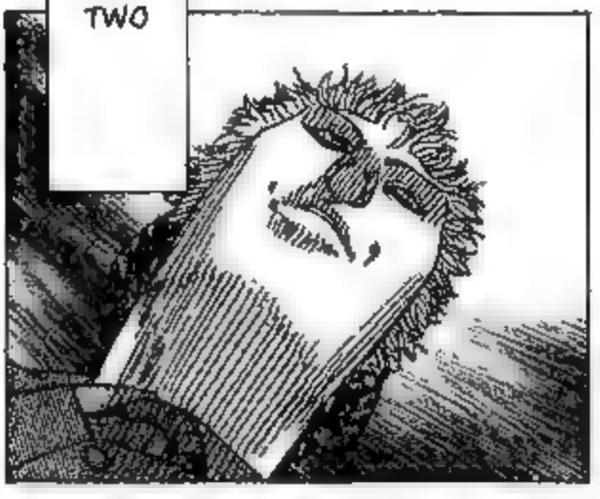
SUDD-ENLY...


LIES IN HOW THE CHALL-ENGE IS DONE.
THE REASON WHY THE FIGHT MUST REACH A CONCLU-SION IN SUCH A SHORT TIME
IF THE OPPONENT CANNOT BE KILLED WITHIN 10 SECONDS, WHAT AWAITS THE CHALLENG-ER... IS DEATH.

BOTH SIDES ARE ALREADY
EXPERTS AT THIS KIND OF CON-FRONT-ATION.
MOST OF THE FIGHTS WILL CONCLUDE AT THE DEATH OF EITHER SIDE.
THEIR LIVES ARE WITHIN ARM'S REACH OF EACH OTHER.
THE DIST-ANCE BETWEEN BOTH SIDES AS THE FIGHT STARTS...
IS THE SAME GAP BETWEEN A CHALLENGER AND CERTAIN DEATH.


ENTERED EACH OTHER'S RANGE FOR THE FIRST TIME,

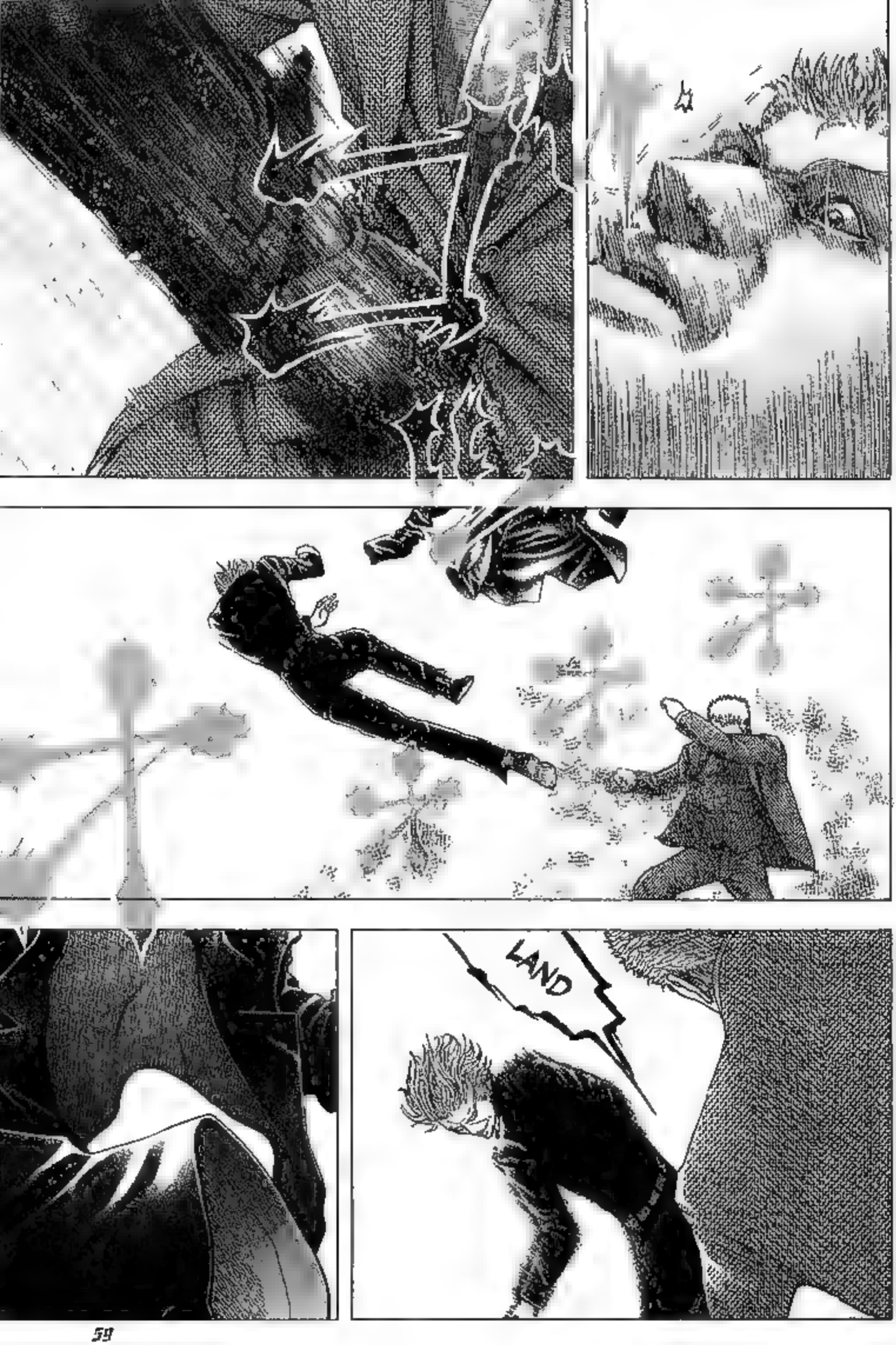

THE MOM ENT


THESE TWO

THEY NOTICED SOMETHING ...

BOTH SIDES
ARE ABLE TO TAKE THE OTHER'S LIFE
AT THIS RANGE...

DIE!

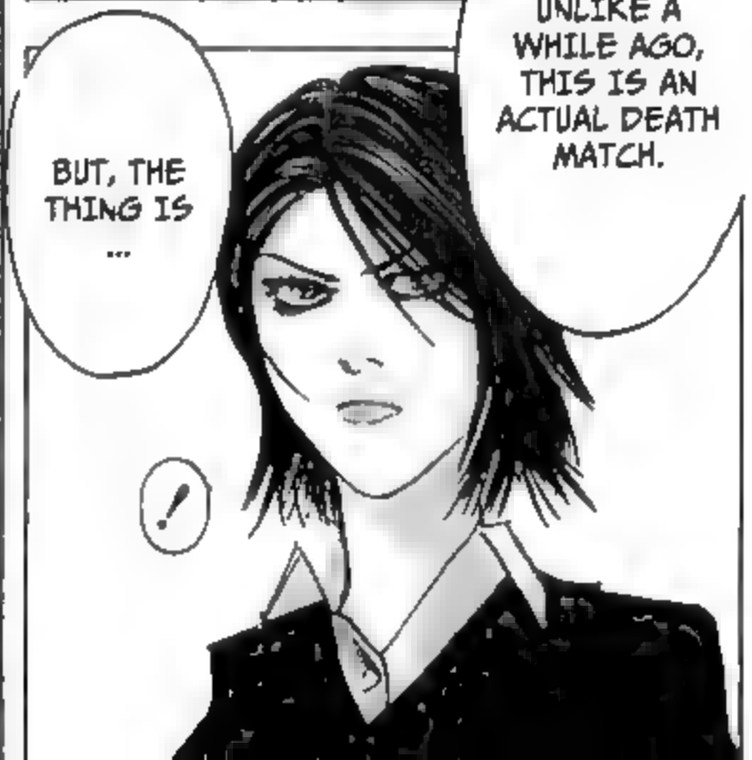

LAND

FLOMP
.....
TURN
ABOUT THE FACT THAT BOTH OF US ARE STILL ALIVE.
GRIND
I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT I'M SUR-PRISED...

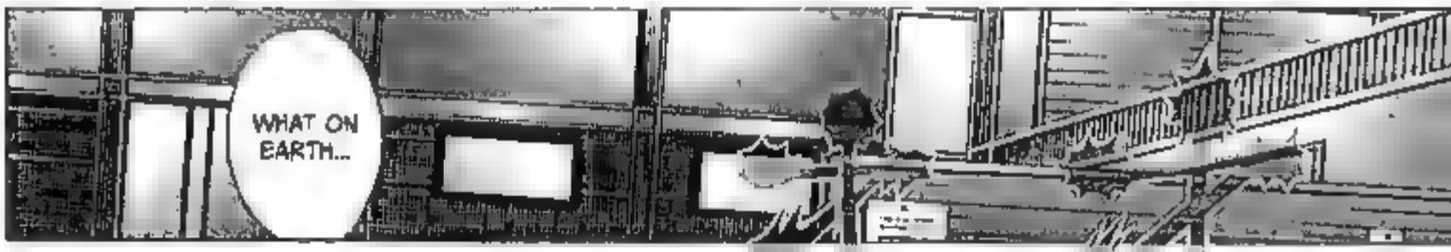
SCRAMBLE ...
UNBELIEVABLE... THIS IS CLEARLY A...

I HAPPEN TO HATE... GAMBLES...

A SCRAMBLE FOR OUR LIVES.


UNLIKE A WHILE AGO, THIS IS AN ACTUAL DEATH MATCH.
BUT, THE THING IS ...
!

!
.....
.....


WHAT ON EARTH...

IS GOING ON...?!

第79話
標的3 Target

WHAT ON EARTH...
JUST... WHAT...
DAMN...

ENTRY TO THAT PIER WAS SUPPOSED TO BE RESTRICTED.
IS GOING ON?
TCH.
CONTACT ALL POLICE DEPARTMENTS ABOUT THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THE INTERVENTION BAN THAT WE ISSUED HAS BEEN VIOLATED...
BUT WHY?

ASK THEM WHY NATIONAL FORCES ARE STILL APPROACHING HERE.

YOUR POLIT.CAL AJTHORITY NOT HELPING YOU AT ALL?
I WONDER WHY... WELL, MAYBE YOU'LL F.GURE IT OUT IF YOU GO AND ASK...

WHAT'S WRONG GUYS?

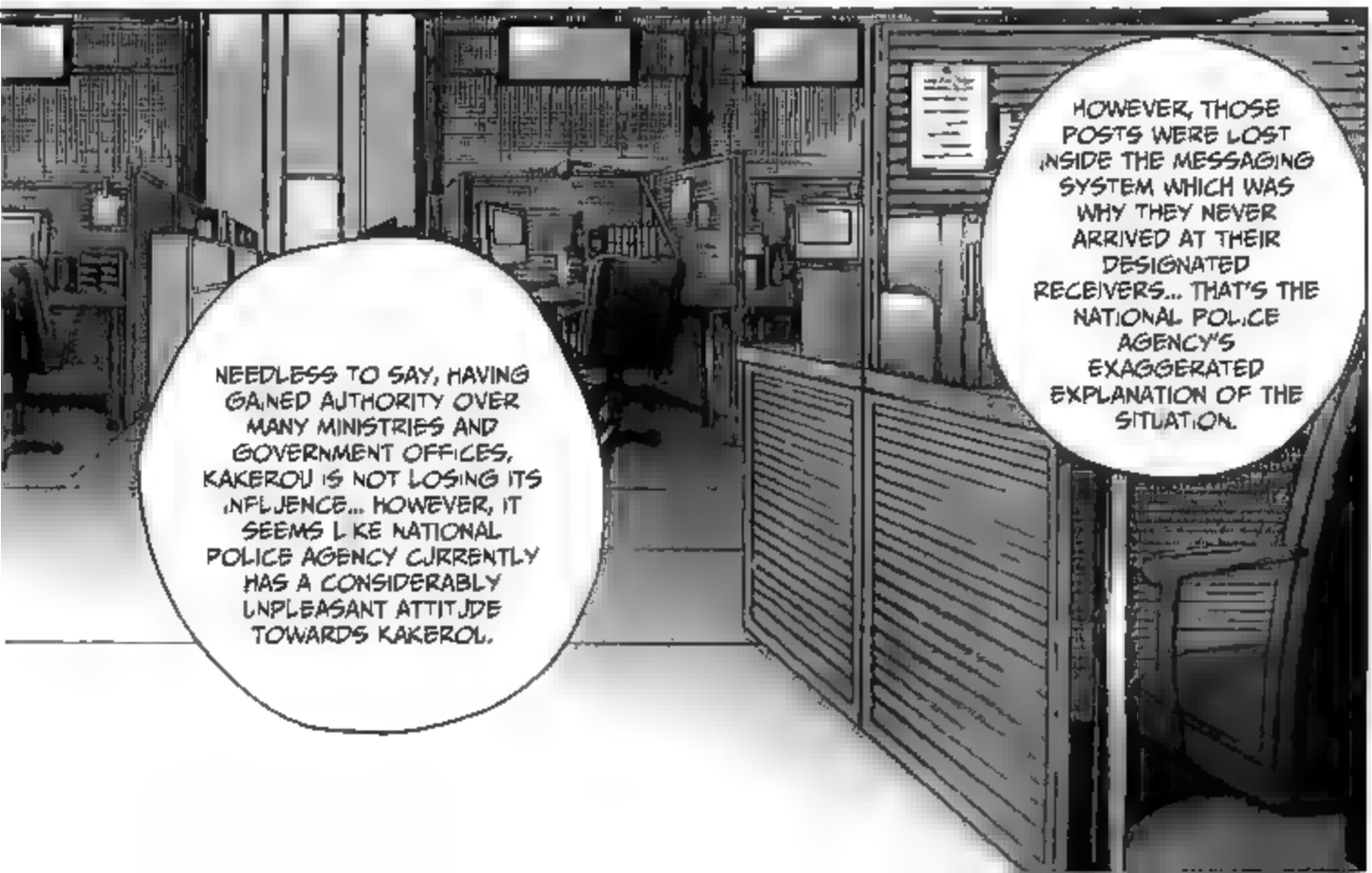
I'D LOVE TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE~
...

LEADER ...
I GOT IT . THESE GUYS...

LEADER.
THE GUY THAT YA'LL CALL
!

I'M LISTENING, REFEREE NOWA.
!
MIZUE... WE RECEIVED THEIR REPLIES... IT'S QUITE A SIMPLE MATTER.

SENT A PARTICULAR POST OVER AND OVER.
DURING LAST FEW DAYS, THE VICE COMMISSIONER OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT AND SEVERAL LOWER RANK CHIEFS, ALL OF WHOM ARE KAKEROU'S TAME PETS,


NEEDLESS TO SAY, HAVING GAINED AUTHORITY OVER MANY MINISTRIES AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES, KAKEROU IS NOT LOSING ITS INFLUENCE... HOWEVER, IT SEEMS LIKE NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY CURRENTLY HAS A CONSIDERABLY UNPLEASANT ATTITUDE TOWARDS KAKEROU.
HOWEVER, THOSE POSTS WERE LOST INSIDE THE MESSAGING SYSTEM WHICH WAS WHY THEY NEVER ARRIVED AT THEIR DESIGNATED RECEIVERS... THAT'S THE NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY'S EXAGGERATED EXPLANATION OF THE SITUATION.

THIS IS HOW THE POLICE ORGANIZATION RESPONDS TO LEADER'S PLAN OF ESTABLISHING A NEW ORGANIZATION WHICH WILL INSPECT AND BE MORE POWERFUL THAN THE POLICE ITSELF.
THE REASON FOR THAT IS THE GAME THAT LEADER PLAYED LAST MONTH...
JUST AS YOU SAID, YAKOU... AND USE HONORIFICS. I'M OLDER THAN YOU

POLICE PROTECT-ION..
JUST HOW DID THIS HAPPEN...?

IT WAS THE INFORMATION HE GOT ABOUT THE NATURE OF RELATION BETWEEN THE LEADER AND UPPER BRASS OF THE POLICE THAT GAVE HIM THE CHANCE FOR THIS ATTEMPT.
AFTER ALL, FOR THAT GUY, TONIGHT'S FIGHT WAS NOTHING BUT A TEST TO EVALUATE OUR STRENGTH.
CONCLUDING THE DAY BY SLIPPING UNDER THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL FORCES WAS HIS INTENTION FROM THE START.

IT'S VERY DIFFICULT FOR JAPANESE POLICE TO LAY THEIR HANDS ON THIS CHARACTER.
THIS IS SIMPLY WHAT I GOT BASED ON THE INFORMATION FROM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUT...
THINKING ABOUT THIS INCIDENT, IT'S HARD NOT TO BE SUSPICIOUS ABOUT A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE POLICE AND THIS GUY.
HE IS KNOWN AS BILLY CRAIG, A THIRD RANK SECRETARY AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. HIS DETAILED DOMICILIARY REGISTER IS AVAILABLE IN THE CIA TOO.

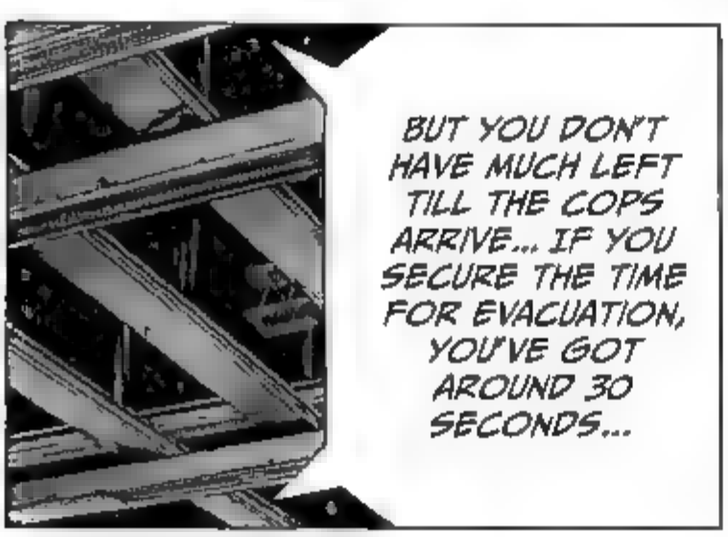
HOWEVER IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THIS GUY IS NOT UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF POLICE AUTHORITIES.
I CAN'T TELL HOW MUCH OF THAT IS HIS REAL FACE OR A MASK,

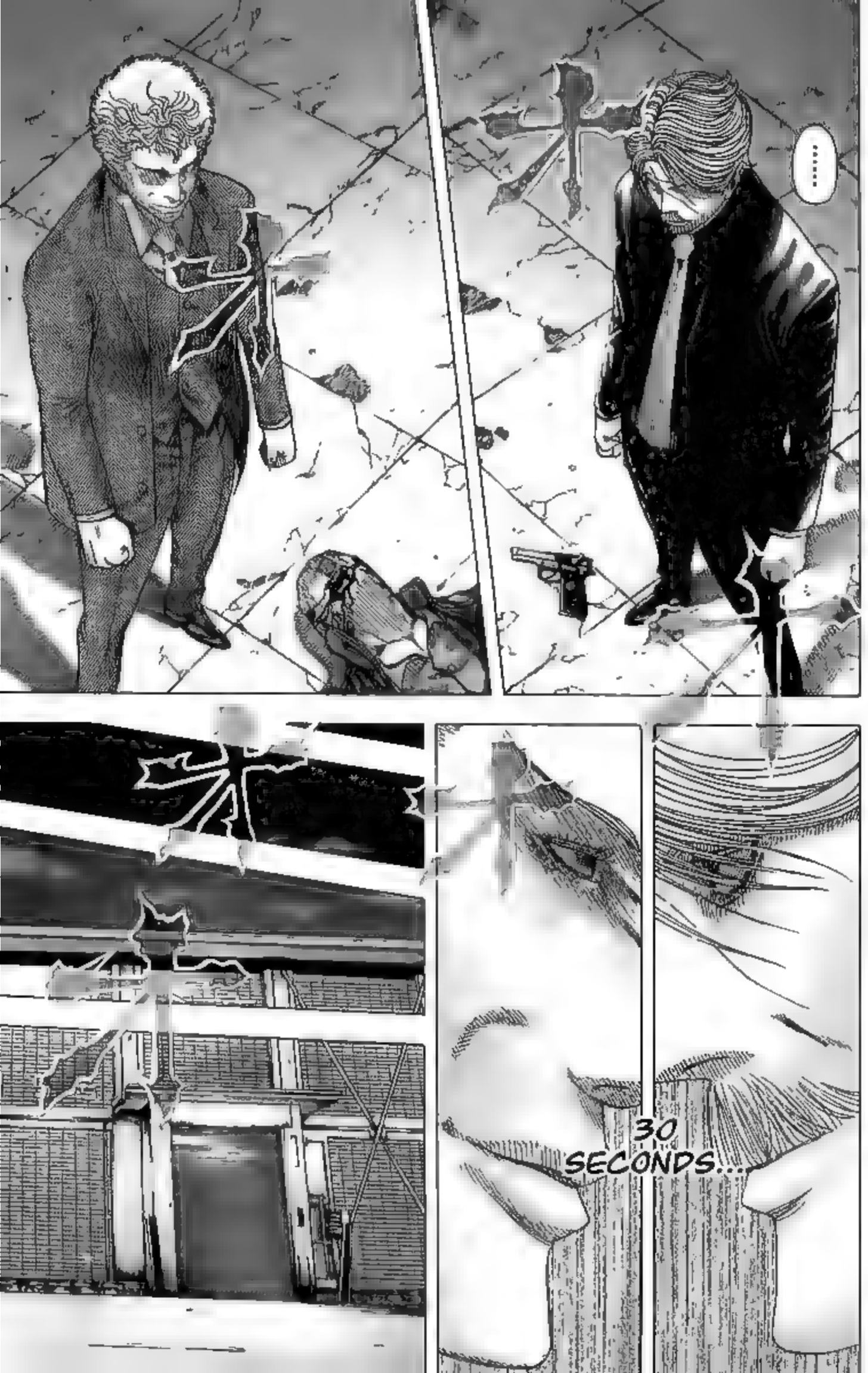
HEY BRAT.
ARE YOU SIMPLY... RUNNING AWAY?
YES

MY JOB IS TAKING OVER KAKEROU... NOT PLAYING GAMES WITH YOU.
IT MAY BE INSOLENT OF ME,
BUT I WASN'T PLANNING TO LOSE EVEN IF WE CONTI-NUED... THOUGH, THERE WAS A CHANCE THAT I'D TAKE A FALL.

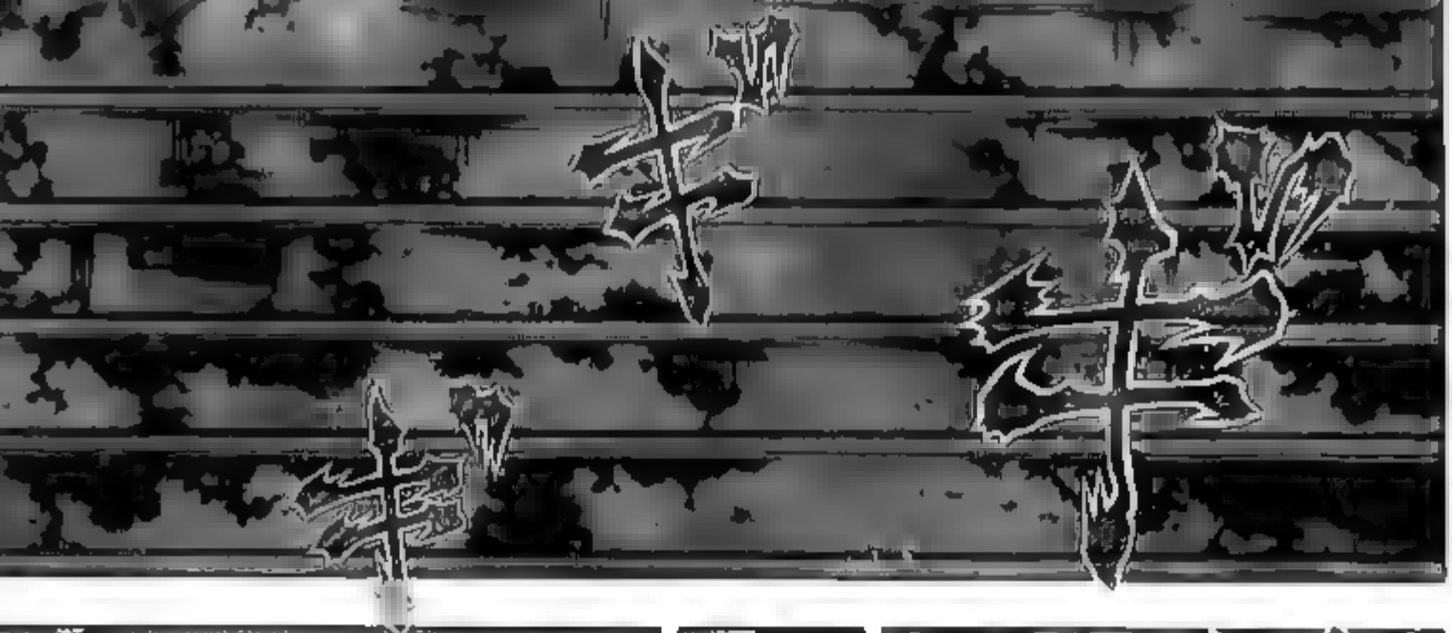
HEY, YAKOU, KEEP ON FIGHTING IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, NOWA?
YOU LITTLE

JUST... A 10 PERCENT CHANCE...


BUT YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH LEFT TILL THE COPS ARRIVE... IF YOU SECURE THE TIME FOR EVACUATION, YOU'VE GOT AROUND 30 SECONDS...


.....
30
SECONDS...

.....
WE'VE ARRIVED AT WAREHOUSE 4.



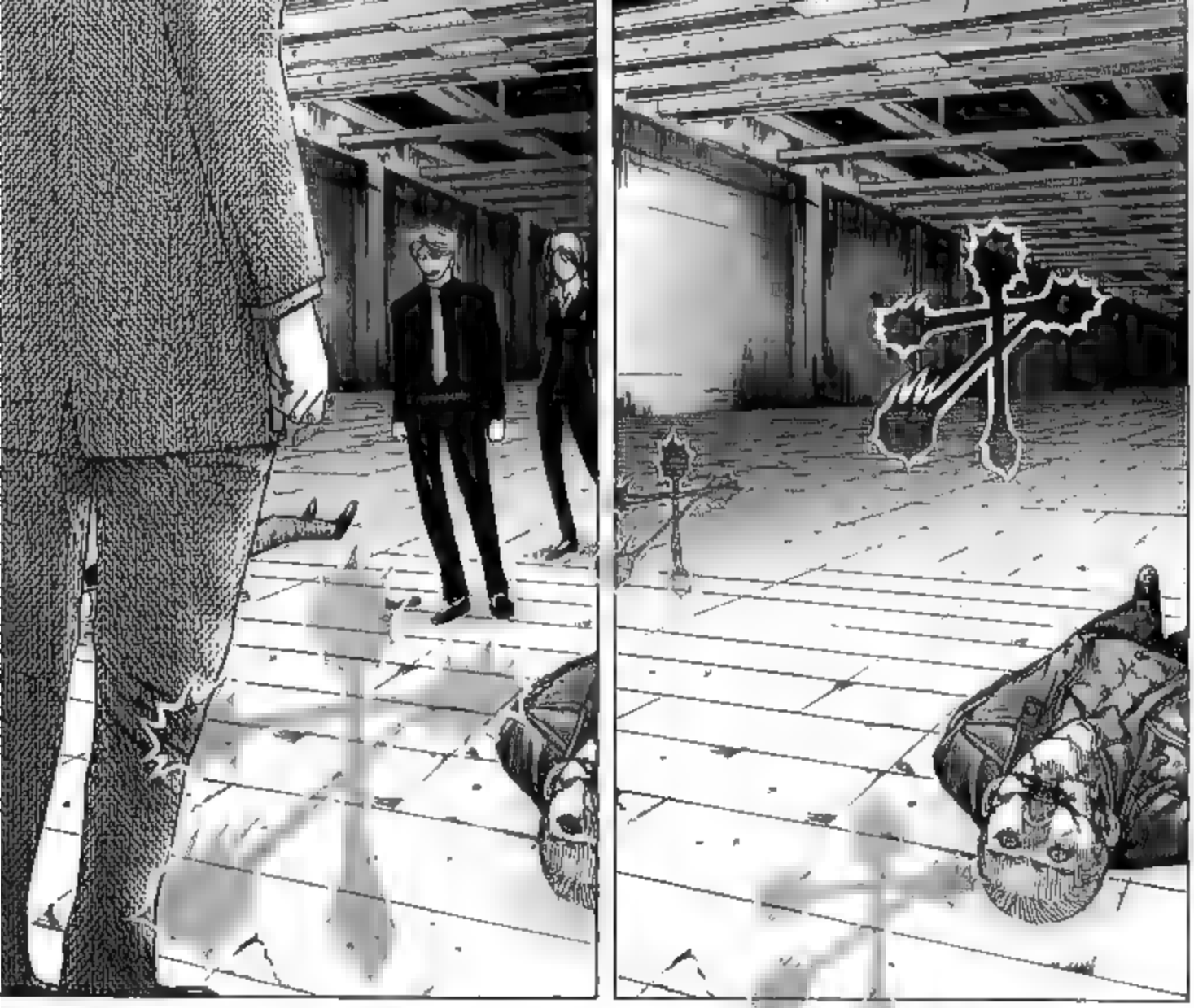
PLEASE STOP... WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE IN HERE?

!
HEY... YOU THERE...

HEY, STOP RIGHT THERE!

AH!
WHAT?
O... OFFICER TANAKA... W... WE'VE GOT DEAD BODIES.

.....
HARGH
DAMN MONKEY...?!
MONKEY!
DON'T TOUCH ME LIKE YOU KNOW ME, YOU MONKEY!
A... A CORPSE
AAH
AA
OKAY MONKEY, PLEASE ESCORT ME TO THE CAR.
OHHH... NOW WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, THERE CAN'T BE ANY MONKEYS AROUND HERE... RIGHT... SORRY.



YOU'VE GOT QUITE VENGEFUL EYES THERE... IT LOOKS LIKE YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SLEEP WELL TONIGHT.

MAN I'M HUNGRY ... I'M GOING BACK..
SCARY, ISN'T IT?
!

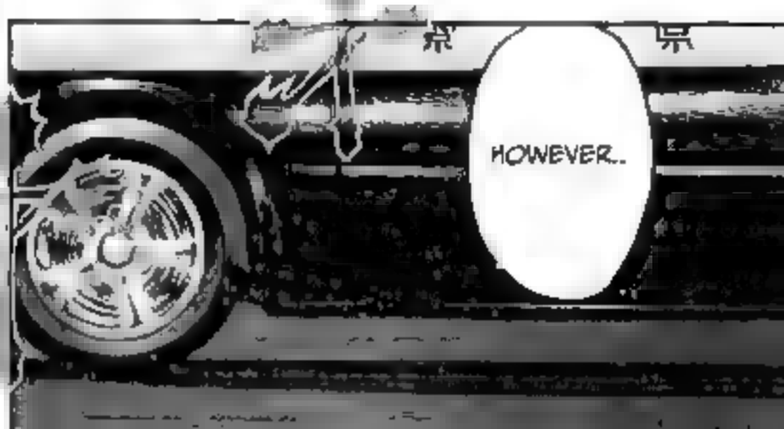
LET ME JUST TELL YOU THAT...
I WILL BE THE ONE TO PURGE YOU...!

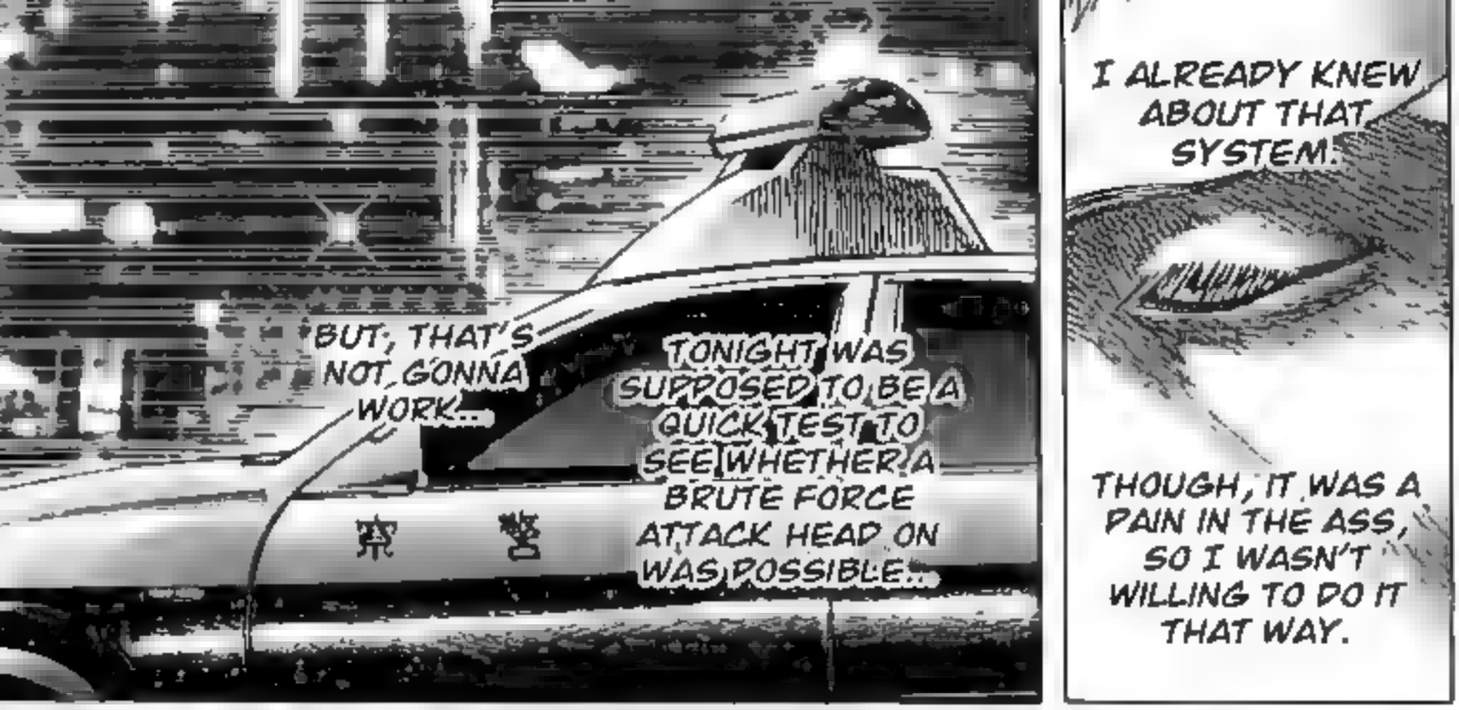
30 SECONDS IS TOO SHORT AFTER ALL...
TCH.

ALSO... THE GREATEST FORTUNE OF CLUB KAKEROU...
IS NOT THE MONEY... INCLUDING THE PEOPLE HIDDEN AT THE CENTER OF ITS AUTHORITY,
IT'S THE *TALENTS*... THE TALENTS THAT ARE DEVOTED TO THEIR SPECIALTIES AND FOCUS ON EVERYTHING WHEN THEY COME TOGETHER...

.....

THEY WON'T BOW DOWN TO A TAKE-OVER THROUGH VIOLENCE...
IN SHORT, YOUR TAKEOVER IS ONLY A DREAM.
.....


HOWEVER..


BUT, THAT'S NOT GONNA WORK...
TONIGHT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A QUICK TEST TO SEE WHETHER A BRUTE FORCE ATTACK HEAD ON WAS POSSIBLE...
I ALREADY KNEW ABOUT THAT SYSTEM.
THOUGH, IT WAS A PAIN IN THE ASS, SO I WASN'T WILLING TO DO IT THAT WAY.

THE ONLY THING LEFT TO DO IS TO MAKE MY MOVES BEHIND THE SCENES.
JOINING AND FOLLOWING THE RULES OF KAKEROU'S SYSTEM PROBABLY WON'T HELP ME REACH MY OBJECTIVE ANYMORE

I PASSED MY JUDGMENT.
BECAUSE WHEN I SAW HIM,
THERE WAS NO NEED TO MENTION IT.

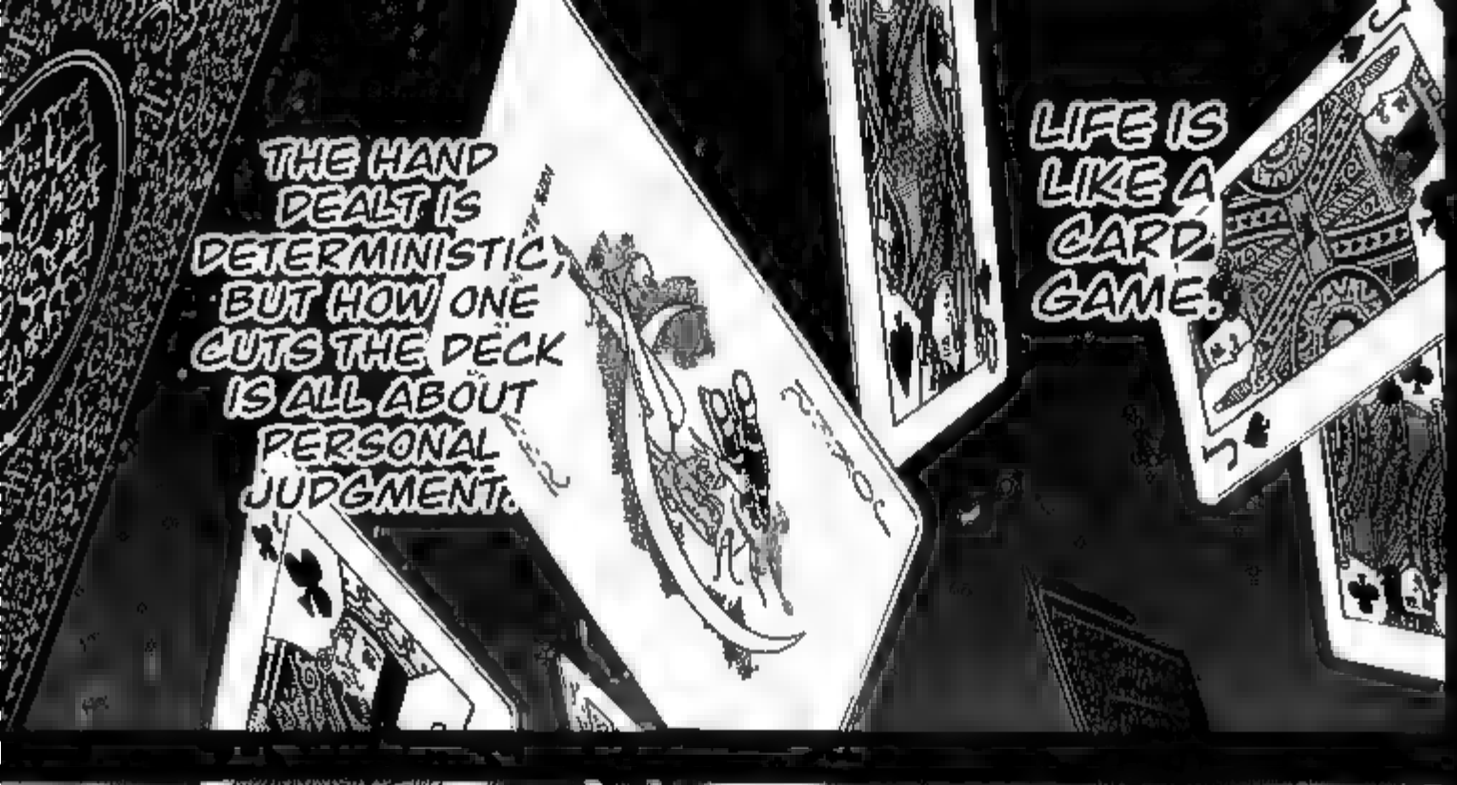
SURPASSING THE LEADER...
IDEAL ALREADY POSSESSES THE MEMBERSHIP TO TAKE ON THAT GAME.
THE FIRST STEP IS MAKING CONNECTIONS WITH THE MAN FROM WHOM THIS GAME ORIGINATES. NAMELY...

THE ONLY ROLE I'LL HAVE IS CARRYING OUT THE PURGE
AFTER THIS POINT, CARACAL SHOULD BE AIMING AT SURPASSING THE LEADER GAME AND MAKING HIS MOVES ACCORDINGLY.

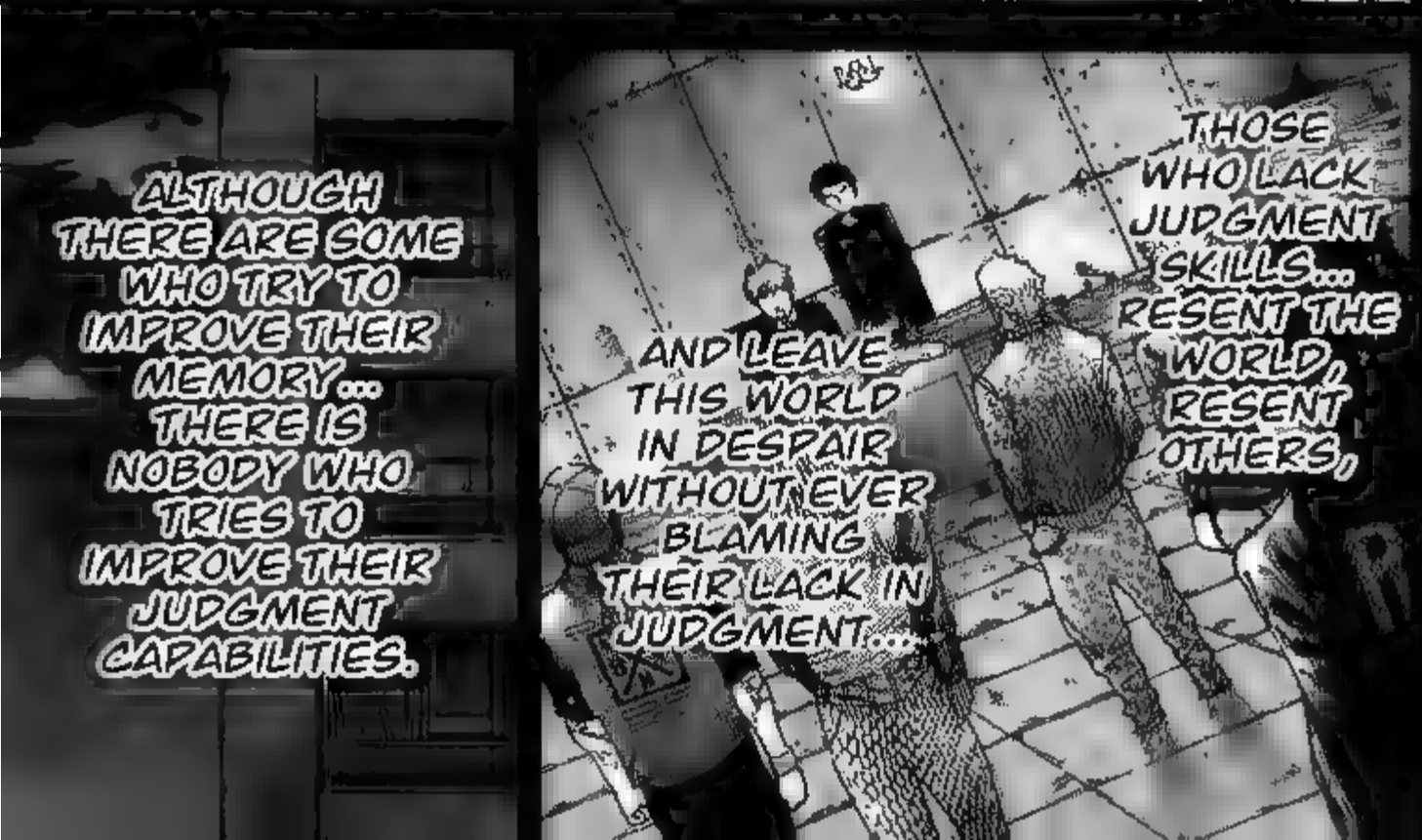
I'LL PURGE THE MAN THAT CARACAL HAS SET HIS EYES ON...
I'LL GET RID OF BOTH CARACAL AND THAT TRAITOR KYARA IN THE END... IN OTHER WORDS...

THAT GAMBLER

USOGUI. BAKU.


LIFE IS LIKE A CARD GAME.
THE HAND DEALT IS DETERMINISTIC, BUT HOW ONE CUTS THE DECK IS ALL ABOUT PERSONAL JUDGMENT.

IF THEIR JUDGMENT IS RIGHT,
IT IS POSSIBLE TO SAVOR A LONGER AND A MORE FULFILLING LIFE.
第80話
奇妙な噂
Strange Rumors

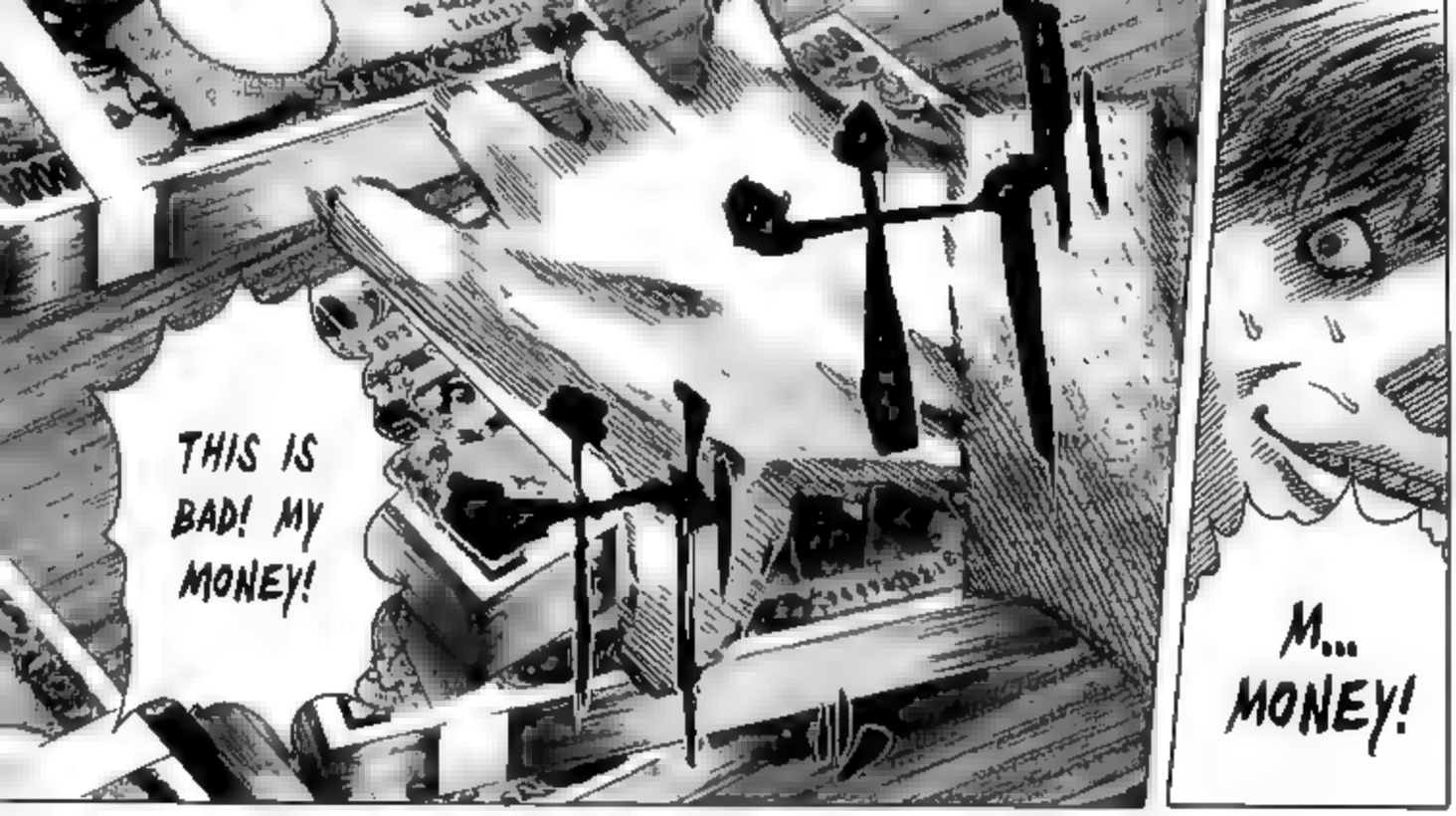

ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SOME WHO TRY TO IMPROVE THEIR MEMORY... THERE IS NOBODY WHO TRIES TO IMPROVE THEIR JUDGMENT CAPABILITIES.
AND LEAVE THIS WORLD IN DESPAIR WITHOUT EVER BLAMING THEIR LACK IN JUDGMENT...
THOSE WHO LACK JUDGMENT SKILLS... RESENT THE WORLD, RESENT OTHERS,

NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE GAMBLE CALLED "LIFE" IS A CHAIN OF DESIRES THAT RUINS THE ABILITY TO JUDGE.
A VICIOUS CYCLE OF ONE DESIRE BEING CREATED FROM ANOTHER.
BECAUSE OF THEIR UNQUENCHABLE THIRSTS, PEOPLE LIVE THEIR DAYS IN STRUGGLE.
WELL, IT CAN'T BE HELPED,
'CAUSE THIS IS WHAT YOU CALL FATE.
.....
IN OTHER WORDS, LUCK WAS ON MY SIDE TODAY...
AND YOU HAVE A DEBT NOW.

TEH... TEHEHEE
AW JJST GIVE IT JP... YOU LET IT SL.P OUT ALREADY.
YOU REALLY SHOULDA
THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID A LITTLE MORE.
THERE ARE HORDES OF GUYS IN THIS WORLD WHO D.ED BECAUSE OF THEIR MISJUDGMENT.
THEY WERE JUST L.KE ALL O' YOU.
THIS AIN'T GONNA BE SOME EAT 'N RUN DEAL, NO WAY! IF YOU THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH THIS EASY WIN, THEN YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO JJDGE AT ALL.
IN THE END, PEOPLE LOSE TO THEIR THIRST...
FOR STARTERS, WHY DON'T YOU JUST D.E?
AND START TELLING LIES.

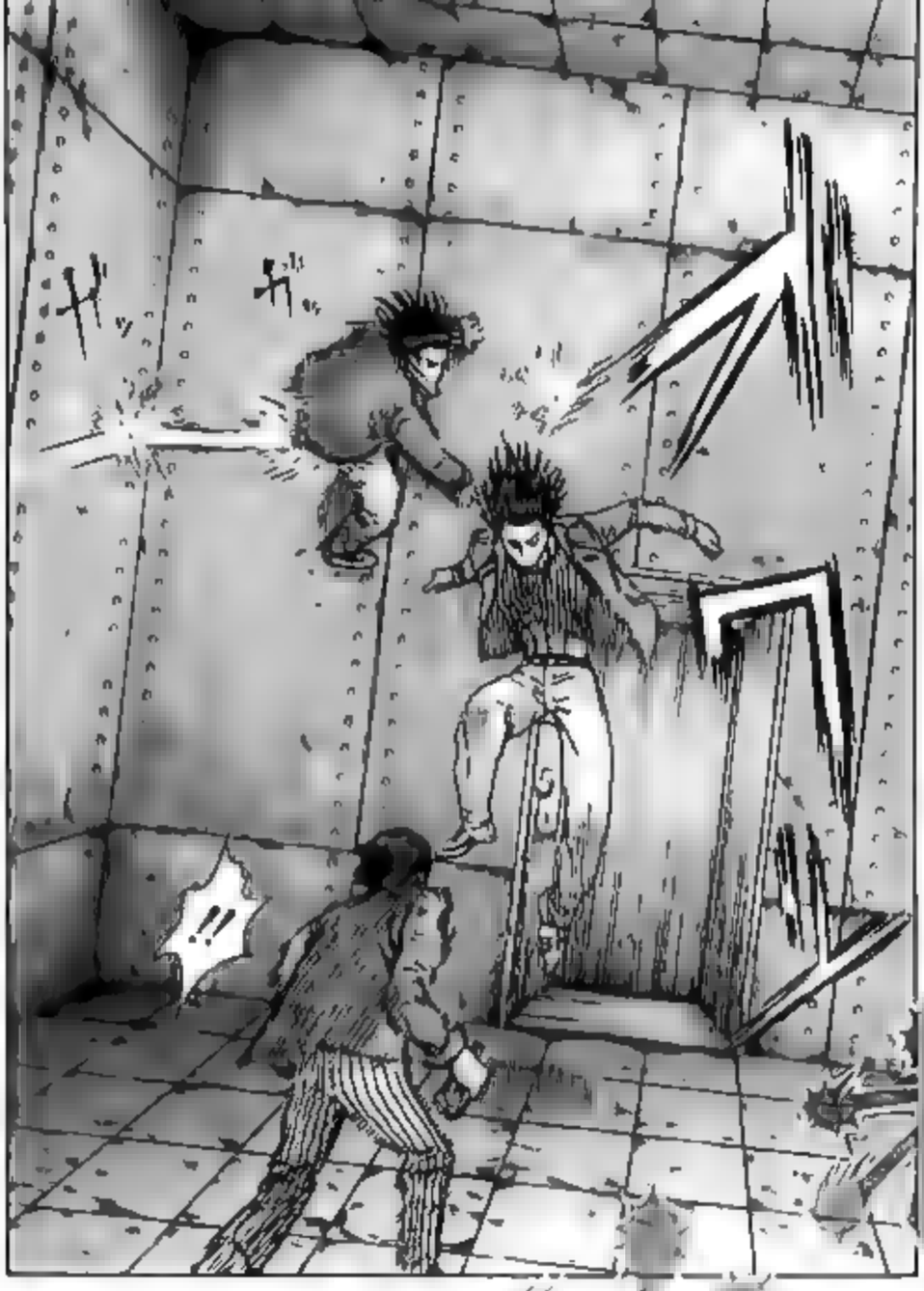
THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL,
!
LIAR-BOY.
第80話
Strange Rumors 奇妙な噂

!!
IF YOU MISJUDGE... YOU DIE.
AHA... ARE YOU OKAY? AS FAR AS I KNOW...


THIS IS BAD! MY MONEY!
M... MONEY!

I SAID MOVE!
AH
I'M IN DEEP SHIT WITHOUT MY MONEY!
MOVE IT!

ATAAA
HOOOO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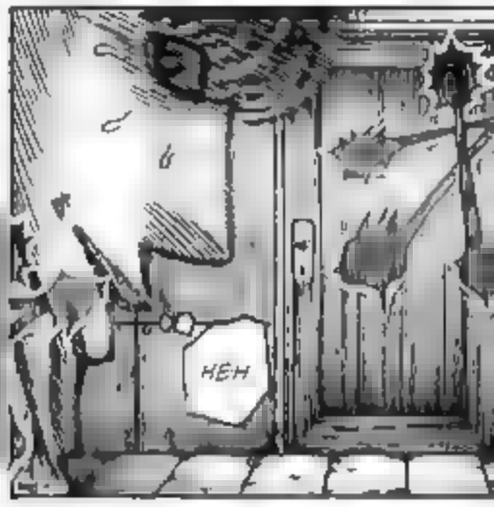

HEH

WRONG!

YOU LOST.
LEAVING WITH THAT MONEY IS...

ACTUALLY, I CAN GIVE THAT MONEY BACK TO YOU GUYS.
....IS THAT MONSTER?!
I HEARD THAT WE COULD MAKE SOME EASY MONEY IN THIS ABANDONED BUILDING IF WE HAD THE NUMBERS, BUT...WHAT THE HECK...
W... WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU?
C'MON, IT'S OKAY. TAKE IT AND LEAVE...
B, BAKU-SAN.
HOWEVER, THAT IS ONLY IF YOU CAN MAKE OUT OF THIS BUILDING ALIVE.
EH?
.....
I WON'T DO THAT EITHER...
MAA-KUN.
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO RUN AWAY WHILE "THIS THING'S" AROUND?!
N... NO FUCKIN' WAY!!
OK.
AH... EEEK!
DO IT.
W... WAIT A SECOND!
OKAY,
THEN LEAVE THAT MONEY HERE.
MAN, OH MAN
HE'S REALLY CAPABLE OF ANY-THING. THAT'S JUST SCARY

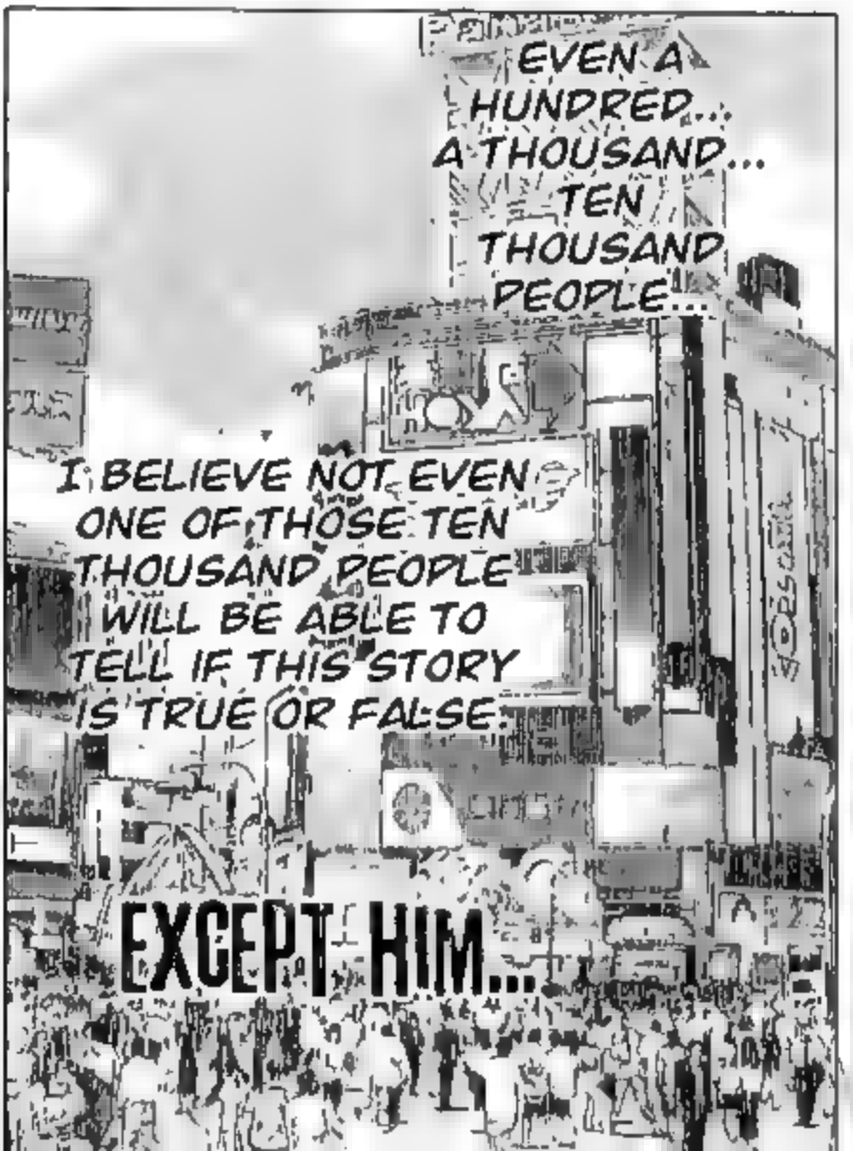
!
A STORY ABOUT AN OUTRAGEOUS BET.
IT'S... A STORY THAT'S TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.
I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING... NO, INSTEAD,
I'LL TELL YOU A STORY. FOR NOW, PLEASE JUST LISTEN.

IT MIGHT BE JUST ME BUT... WHEN I LEARNED ABOUT IT, I HAD TO EXPERIENCE IT FIRSTHAND.
CALL IT A STRANGE RUMOR OR URBAN LEGEND, BUT AT GAMBLING DENS AND AMONG YAKUZA
A... AND THEN, YESTERDAY, I DISCOVERED AN AMAZING PLACE...
THERE'S TALK GOING AROUND OF A DANGEROUS GAMBLE... A PART OF IT MENTIONS THIS ABANDONED BUILDING.

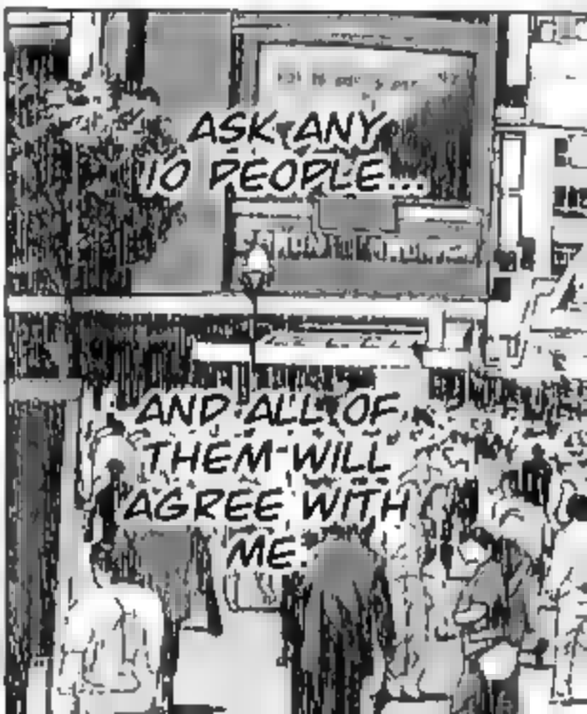
IF YOU PLAY AND WIN THIS GAME...
No money needed...
OR ANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS... EVEN BEING BROKE IS NO PROBLEM AT ALL!

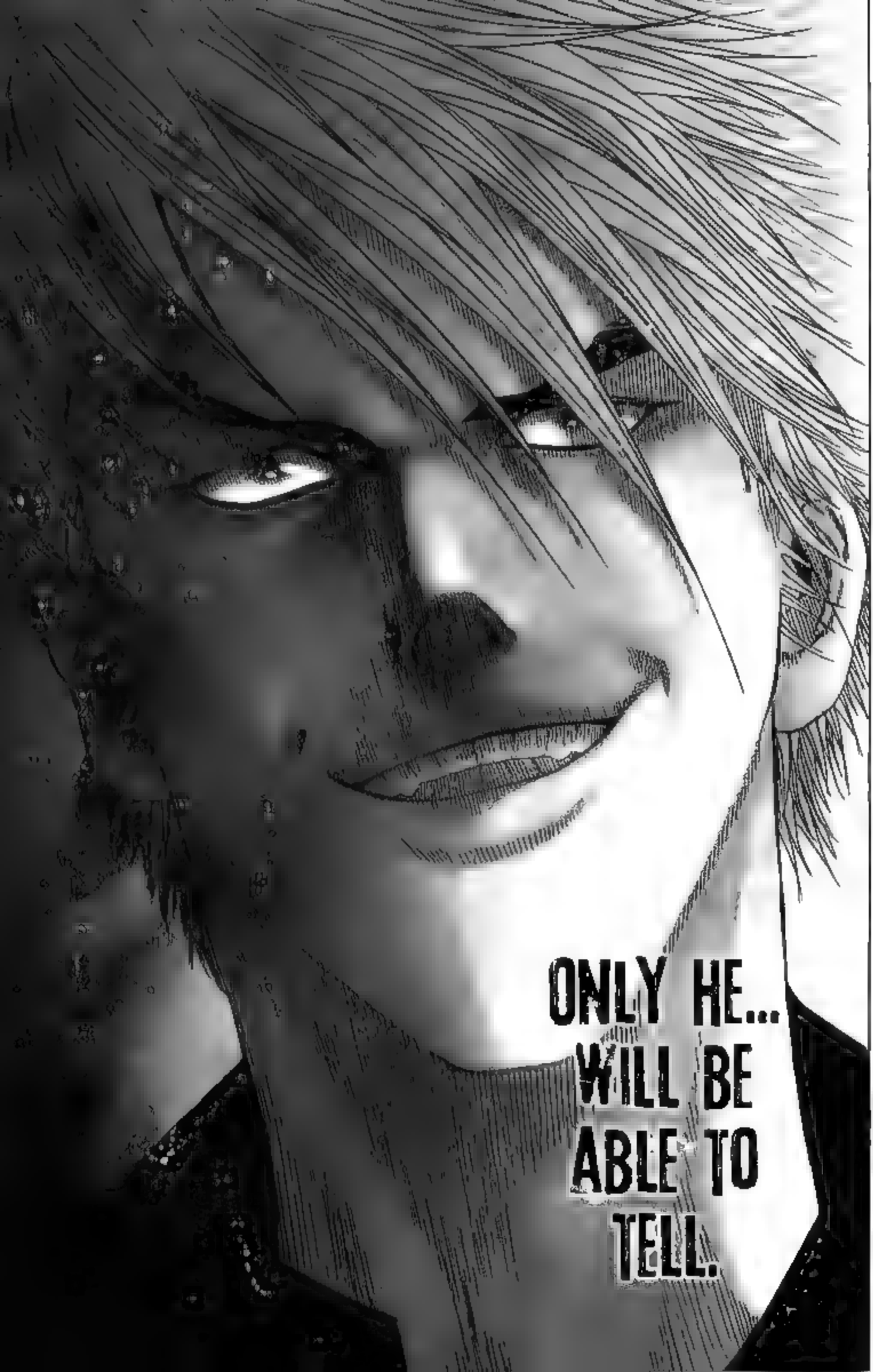
YOU CAN EARN MONEY...
!
UP TO HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS.
SERIOUSLY, HOW CAN THERE BE SUCH A STORY
AS IF THERE'S ANYONE WHO'D JUMP TO THAT SORT OF BULLSHIT
YOU'RE THINKING THEY'LL TAKE YOUR INTERNAL ORGANS IF YOU LOSE, HUH?
IT'S JUST NATURAL, YOU'D THINK THAT'S THE WAY IT GOES.
EVEN... EVEN SO, I'VE BEEN THERE,
AND I'VE LOST.
BUT, AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M STILL IN ONE PIECE.

DO ME A FAVOR AND USE THIS MONEY TO BUY THIS "CHANCE" FROM ME! NATURALLY, YOU CAN DO THE PAYMENT AFTER YOU CONFIRM ALL THESE!! COME ON, THINK ABOUT IT!
YOU CAN GO AND EARN BIG!
I'LL TEACH YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW IN ORDER TO WIN THERE!
NOTHING BAD WILL HAPPEN EVEN IF YOU LOSE. BUT, YOU'LL GET A WHOPPING 100 MILLION IF YOU WIN.


EVEN A HUNDRED... A THOUSAND... TEN THOUSAND PEOPLE...
I BELIEVE NOT EVEN ONE OF THOSE TEN THOUSAND PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO TELL IF THIS STORY IS TRUE OR FALSE.
EXCEPT HIM...

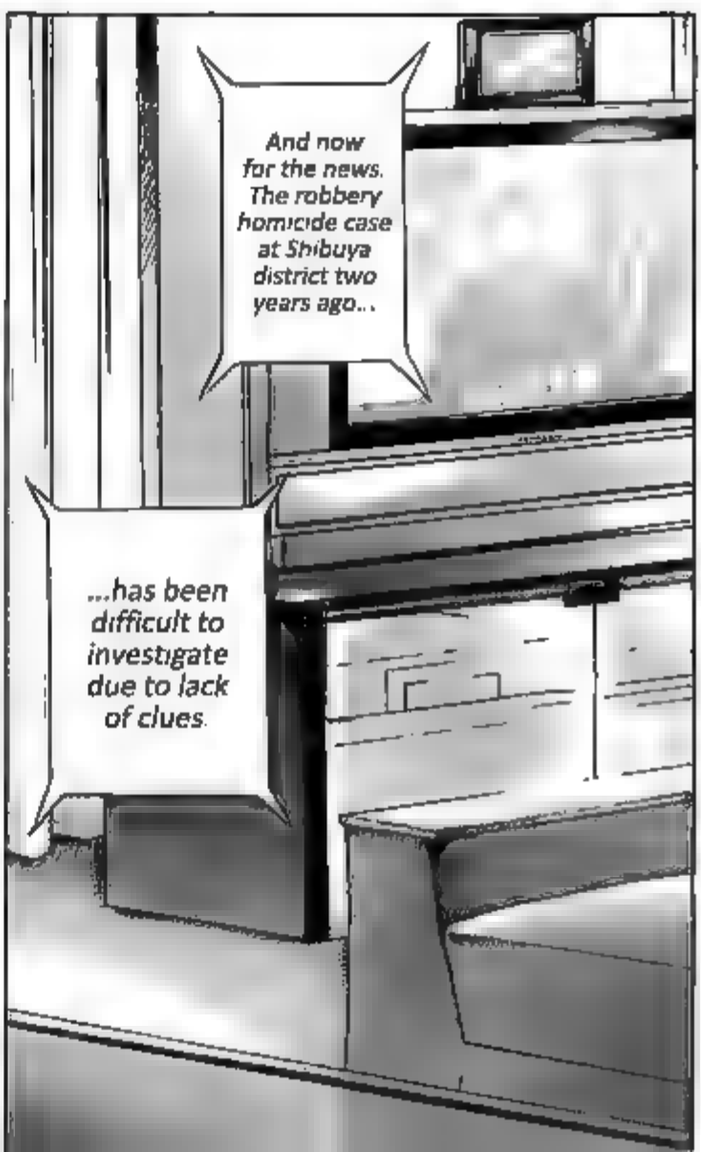
WHAT A LIE...
THAT STORY IS BULLSHIT...


ASK ANY 10 PEOPLE...
AND ALL OF THEM WILL AGREE WITH ME.

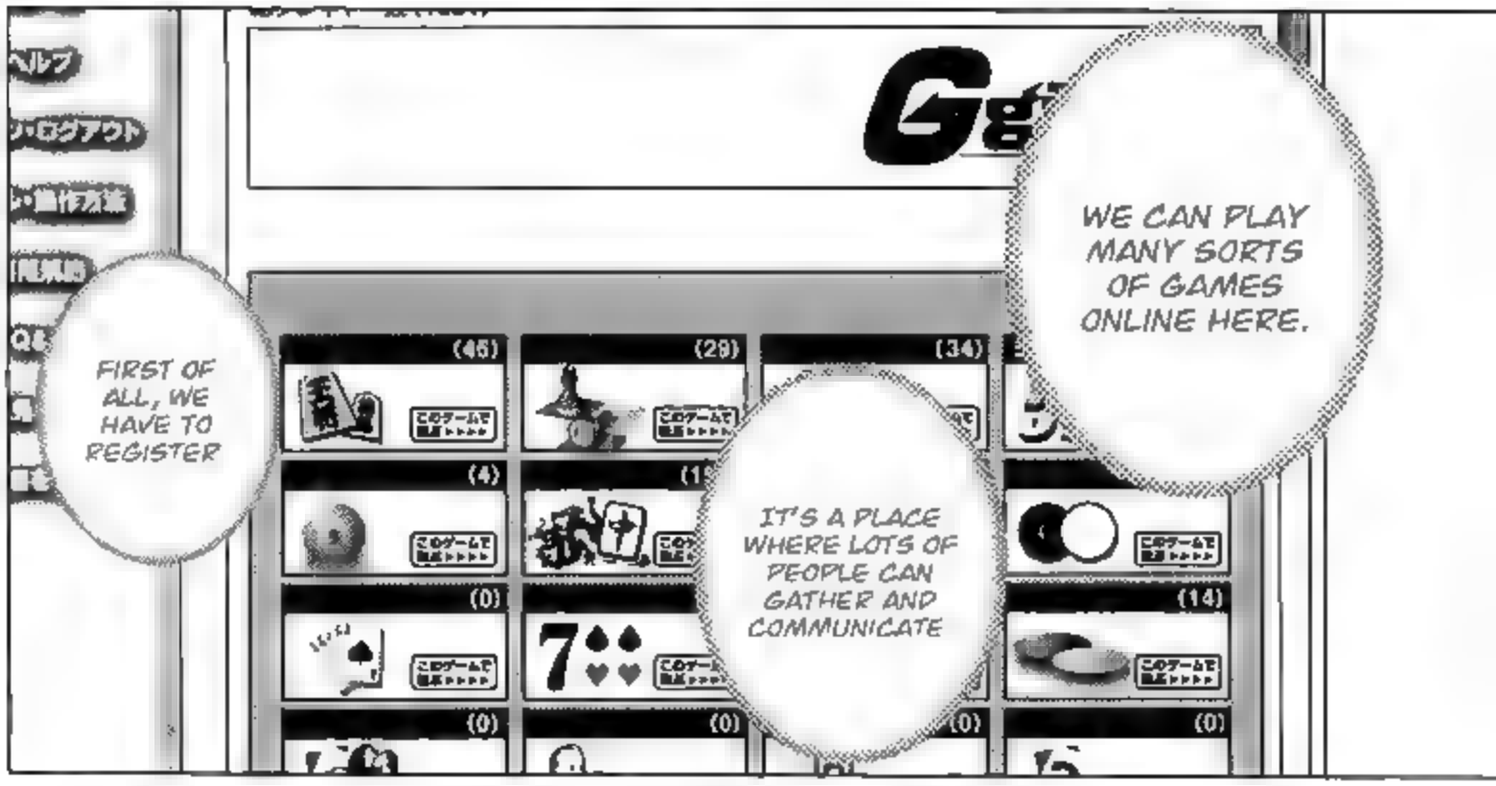

ONLY HE...
WILL BE
ABLE TO
TELL.

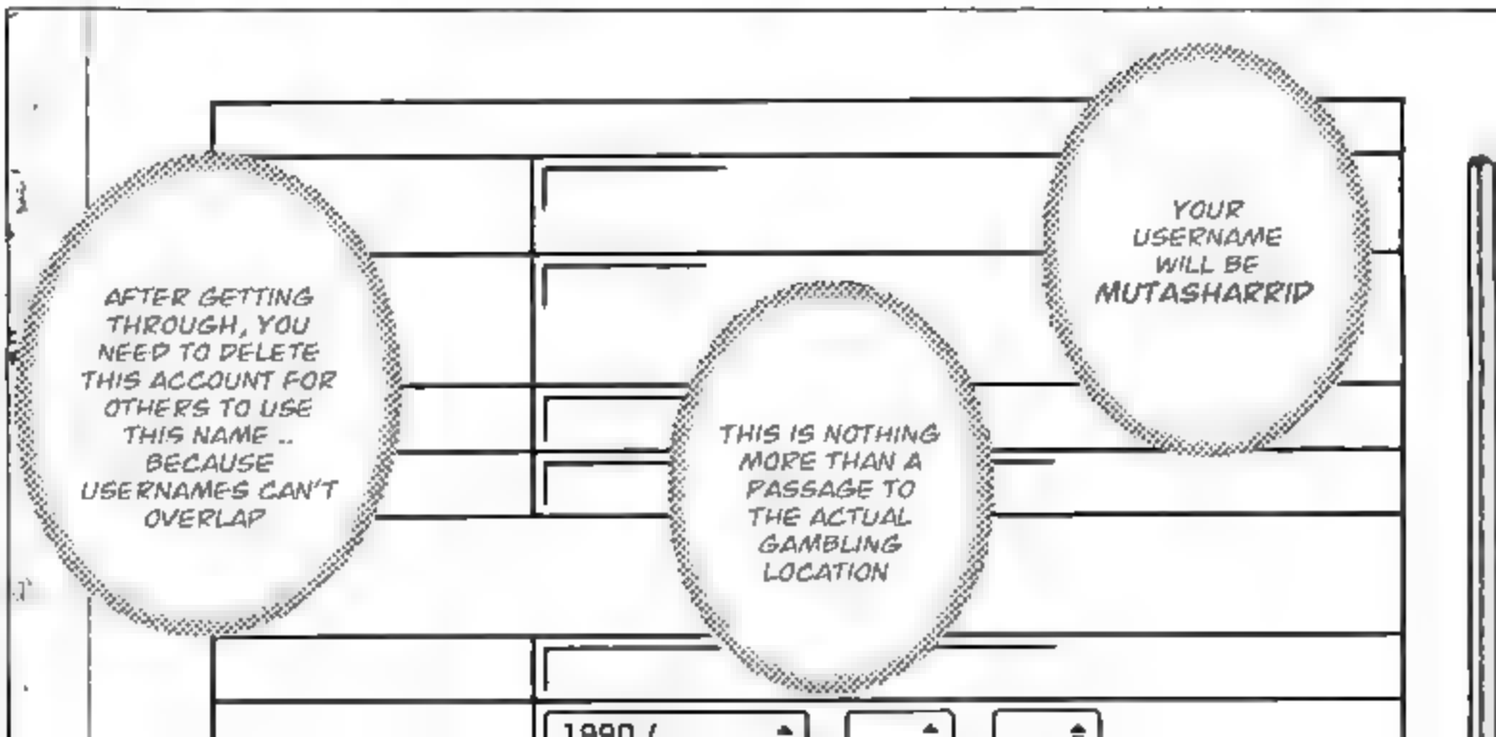
THE GORDEN COURT

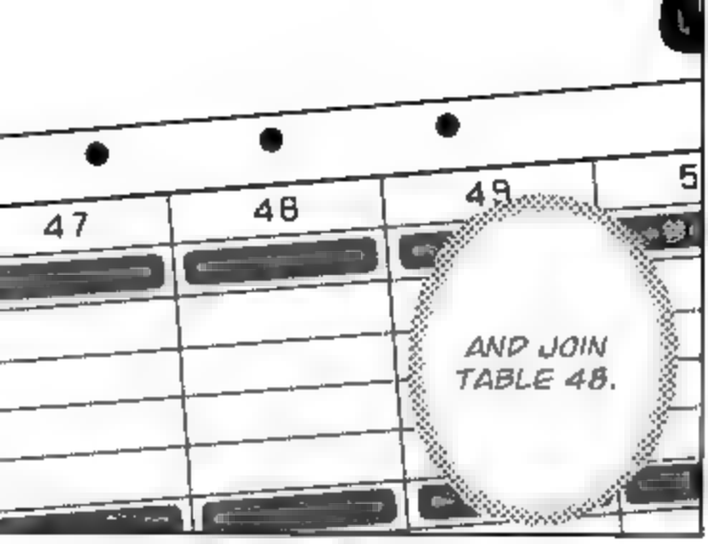
.....

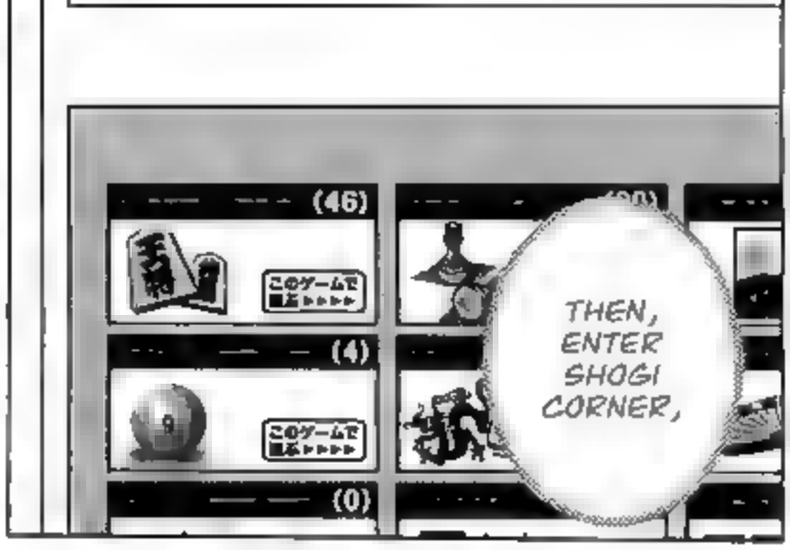

And now for the news. The robbery homicide case at Shibuya district two years ago...
...has been difficult to investigate due to lack of clues.

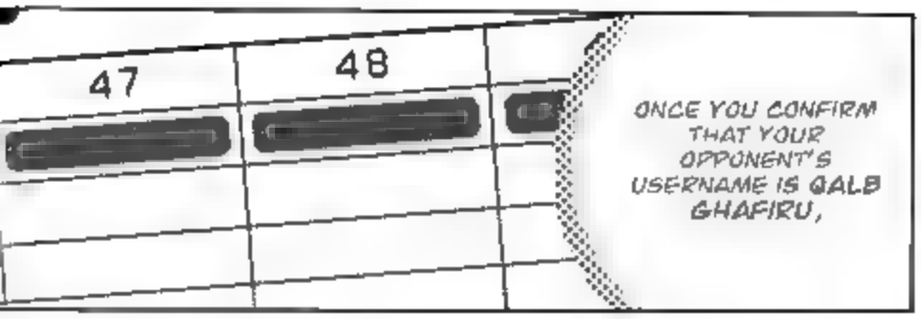
online game
Ggame
G-GAME.
ONLINE GAME SITE,


FIRST OF ALL, WE HAVE TO REGISTER
IT'S A PLACE WHERE LOTS OF PEOPLE CAN GATHER AND COMMUNICATE
WE CAN PLAY MANY SORTS OF GAMES ONLINE HERE.


AFTER GETTING THROUGH, YOU NEED TO DELETE THIS ACCOUNT FOR OTHERS TO USE THIS NAME .. BECAUSE USERNAMES CAN'T OVERLAP
THIS IS NOTHING MORE THAN A PASSAGE TO THE ACTUAL GAMBLING LOCATION
YOUR USERNAME WILL BE MUTASHARRID


47
48
49
AND JOIN TABLE 48.


(46)
(4)
(0)
THEN, ENTER SHOGI CORNER,


47
48
ONCE YOU CONFIRM THAT YOUR OPPONENT'S USERNAME IS QALB GHAFIRU,

THAT TABLE WILL HAVE ONLY ONE PLAYER READY.
IT'S SET UP TO ACCEPT NO OTHER USER EXCEPT THE ONE WITH THE NAME MUTASHARRID.

THEN ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS PLAY A ROUND OF SHOGI
CAN I PLAY THIS GAME?
AH... BAKU-SAN.

GAME OVER, MAN! DO YOU FEEL LIKE HIDING YOUR FACE UNDER THE BOARD?
DAMN, HE'S GOOD..
AND YOUR OPPONENT WILL CONTACT YOU.
WAIT A LITTLE AFTER THE GAME
手番

Do you want...
Money?
Qalb Ghafiru >
Thanks for the game.
By the way, you
Do you want...
.....
ASKING ME IF I WANT MONEY?
I DO~

Qalb Ghafiru >

If you want to get a hold of the money,
you have to make your breakthrough
as you wander the road of bewilderment.

Do you want...
Money?

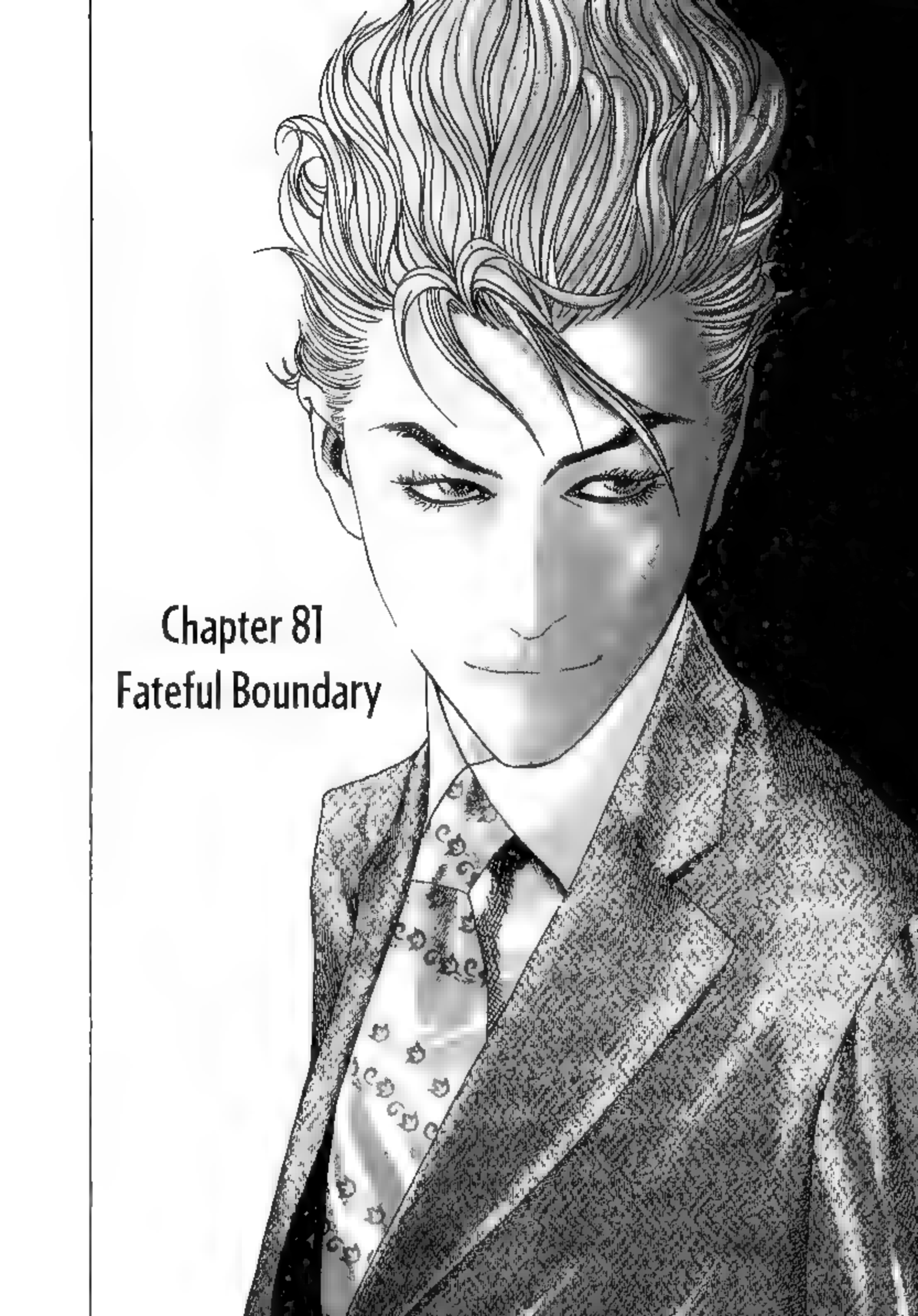
Mutasharrid >

I do.

is up to you!

I can open the gate
for you to break through.

What you do next....



Chapter 81
Fateful Boundary

WHAT I WITNESSED UNTIL I JOINED THE "NO MONEY" GAMBLE'S TABLE WILL BE THE SAME FOR YOU,
I CAN'T GUARANTEE THAT
....

AND THEN MEET HIM AT THE DESIGNATED PLACE... THAT'S HOW IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE.
AS I SAID BEFORE, CONTACT *THAT PERSON* AT THAT G-GAME WEBSITE...
BUT LET MY EXPERIENCE BE A REFERENCE FOR YOU.

AT ANY RATE, DURING YOUR MEETING...
!
AT FIRST, I WAS NERVOUS ABOUT MEETING A SUSPICIOUS GUY AS MY OPPONENT, BUT I SAW THAT THERE WAS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
BUT... DON'T WORRY ABOUT BEING ALONE THERE.
WHEN I DID THIS, ONLY ONE PERSON WAS ABLE TO GO TO THE GAMBLING LOCATION.

IT MIGHT BE MY LUCK... IT WAS JUST A COINCI-DENCE...
AT ANY RATE, THERE'S NO TENDENCY FOR GETTING LIVES TAKEN.
?
ER, NEVER MIND...
.....
IT'S NOTHING.

JUST LIKE PLAYING STRAIGHT TRIFECTA FOR FREE IF YOU COULD.
THERE'S ONLY THE CHANCE TO WIN A HUNDRED MILLION.

I MIGHT WIN... UP TO A HUNDRED MILLION...
WITHOUT BETTING ON MY MONEY OR LIFE,

WHETHER OR NOT IT'S TOTALLY SAFE,
THAT STORY... CAN'T BE REAL.

CAN'T BE SWALLOWED THAT EASILY...
HEY KAJI-KUN,

IN FACT, OUR ONLINE OPPONENT
ART MART
MIGHT AS WELL BE A CHARADE OF THAT MUSHROOM-HEAD... SUCH A STORY...

AFTER ALL, THAT STORY CAN'T BE REAL,
AND IT'S OBVIOUS THAT MUSHROOM-HEAD MADE IT UP OUT OF DESPERATION!
BAKU-SAN! LET ME BE THE PARTICI-PANT!
JUST LIKE HE SAID, THIS GAME HAS SINGLE PARTICIPANT RULE... WHAT DO YOU THINK?

BAKU-SAN STILL SEEMS TO BELIEVE IN THAT STORY... IT FEELS A LITTLE SCARY NOW...
I DID SAY THAT, BUT...
.....

YOU THERE.

HEY, WAIT A SECOND
I WONDER IF MARCO AND BAKU-SAN ARE PROPERLY WATCHING OUT FOR ME
I'M SERIOUSLY COUNTING ON THOSE GUYS IF SHIT GETS DANGEROUS

FOUND YOU,
SCRATCH
THEY CAME... A WOMAN?
YES?
...
YOU MOLES-TER.
SCRATCH
OW, OUCH!
HUUH? EHH?
WHAT THE...
WHA?
WHAT... WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!

JUST NOW WHILE ACTING AS IF YOU WERE PASSING BY, DIDN'T YOU?! YOU DAMN MOLESTER!
YOU GROPED ME!
DON'T TRY TO FOOL ME.

WHAT... THE HECK?
EH?
THAT THIS LADY'S SPOUTING...?
WHAT'S ALL THIS BULLSHIT

CONSPICUOUS ACTS ARE NOT WELCOME.
AND I CAN'T PROVE ANYTHING AS IT IS.
NO MATTER WHAT, I GOTTA FORCE MY WAY OUTTA THIS.

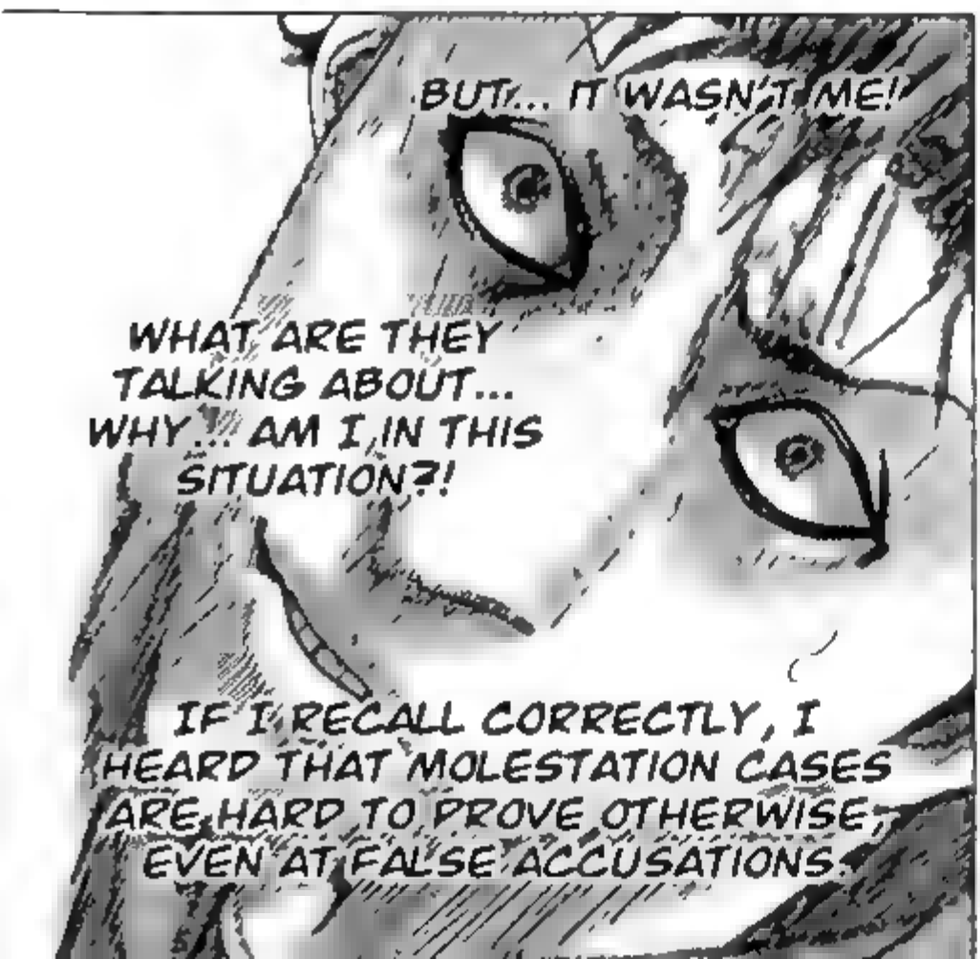
WAIT A SEC!
OR NO,

SHIT... THIS ISN'T GOOD!.. WHAT LIES AHEAD IS WHAT A MAN WILL FACE FOR BREAKING LAWS.
NATURALLY.

AND, WHAT WILL YOU DO ABOUT THIS WOUND? WANNA GO TO THE POLICE?
.....
PEOPLE CALL THIS... MISTAKNG SOMEONE FOR SOMEONE ELSE...
AH MAN, WHAT A BUMMER.
LISTEN.. NOW I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING THAT'LL PROBABLY SHOCK YOU
CHEW CHEW
POLICE...

STOP!
EH?

THAT YOU ARE THE MOLESTER ...?
HEY YOU, I HEARD ...


BUT... IT WASN'T ME!
WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT... WHY... AM I IN THIS SITUATION?!
IF I RECALL CORRECTLY, I HEARD THAT MOLESTATION CASES ARE HARD TO PROVE OTHERWISE, EVEN AT FALSE ACCUSATIONS.

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST.

HAVING SAID THAT... AM I UNDER ARREST, BECAUSE OF FOLLOWING SUCH A STUPID STORY?
WELL, WHETHER HE'D COME OUT HERE WAS QUESTIONABLE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
WITH THIS, MY OPPONENT WON'T COME OUT ANYMORE.

I SUPPOSE I DON'T MIND WHAT HAPPENED, OFFICER.
WELL...

EH?
I WON'T BE SUBMITTING ANY REPORTS ANYWAY.

SEE YOU, AND... DON'T DO THAT AGAIN.

HE TOUCHED ME IN A RUDE WAY, SO I GUESS I DRAGGED THIS MORE THAN I SHOULD HAVE.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, IT WASN'T A BIG DEAL... I HAVE TO LEAVE NOW, SO PLEASE EXCUSE ME.

COULD YOU... TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF OF ME?
.....
OFFICER...
WHAT THE FUCK DID YOU SAY, YOU BRAT? YOU'RE QUITE THE COCKY ONE, AREN'T YOU?
SHOW YOUR ID! YOU'RE BEING INVESTI-GATED.
YOU'RE GOING TO USE THE FACT THAT WOMAN WAS TOO IRRITATED TO REPORT YOU AS AN EXCUSE TO KEEP ON MOLEST.NG, WON'T YOU?!
HURRY IT UP, YOU SCUM.
THE HELL'S WITH THIS COP?! HE'S TYRANNIZING BY ABUSING HIS AUTHORITY... WHAT AN ATTITUDE.

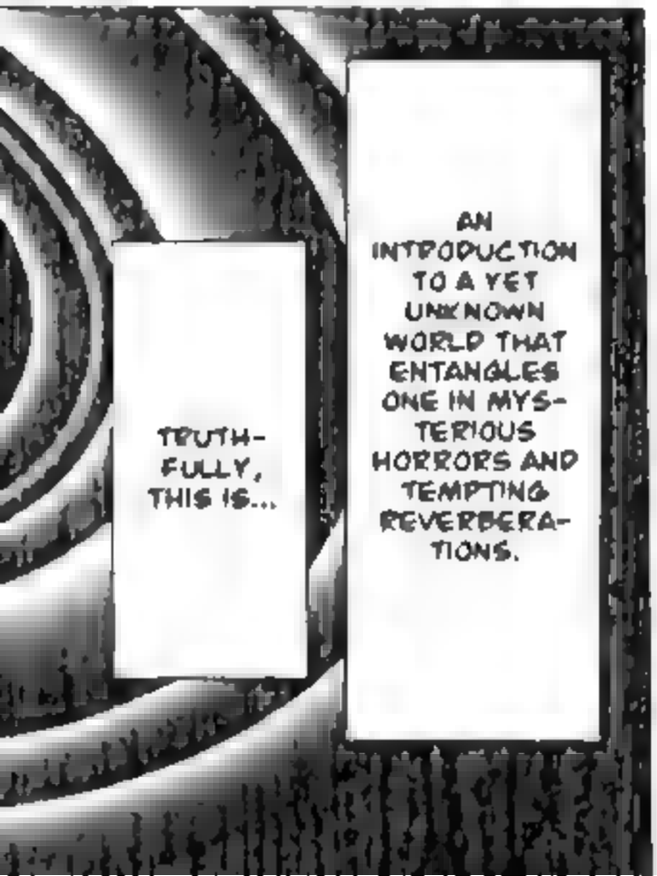
PLEASE WAIT.
!
YOU THERE, OFFICER.

THAT GENTLE-MAN
IS OUR GUEST.
PLEASE EXCUSE HIM FROM
THIS UNNECES-SARY INVESTIGA-TION.

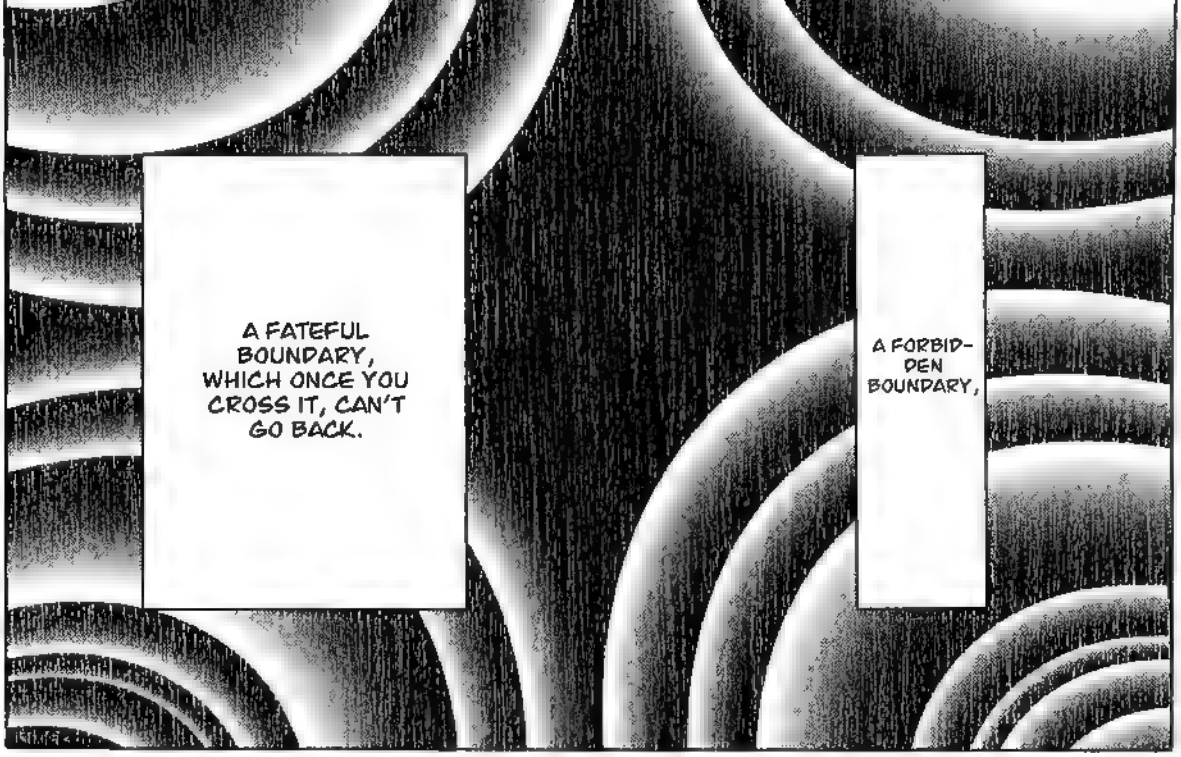
HE... HE CAME?!

IS THIS GUY MY OPPONENT FOR THIS GAMBLE?
HE TALKED TO THE COP WITHOUT HESITATING OR ANY RESER-VATIONS...
SOMEHOW, HIS AURA MAKES ME FEEL SAFE... MOREOVER...

LET US BE OFF.
NOW THEN...
Wave
.....


TRUTH-FULLY, THIS IS...
AN INTRODUCTION TO A YET UNKNOWN WORLD THAT ENTANGLES ONE IN MYS-TERIOUS HORRORS AND TEMPTING REVERBERA-TIONS.

"NO MONEY" GAMBLE


A FORBID-
DEN
BOUNDARY,
A FATEFUL
BOUNDARY,
WHICH ONCE YOU
CROSS IT, CAN'T
GO BACK.

IT IS THE
BEGINNING
OF A
DEPRAVED
AND OBSCENE
GAMBLE,
...
IN WHICH
ONLY THE
TRESPASSERS
OF THAT
BOUNDARY
WILL
SUFFER...

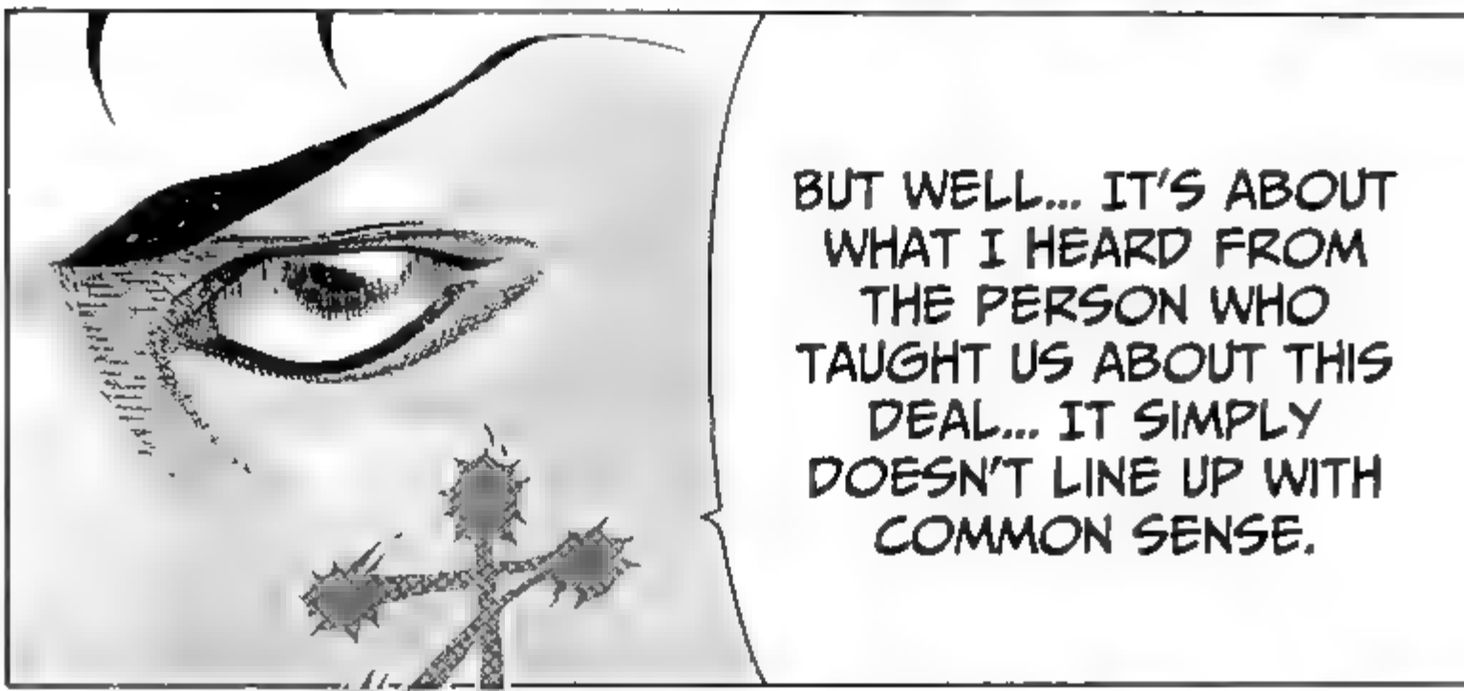
第82話
迷い道
The Road of Bewilderment

.....
UHMMM...

T/N: NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH CHRIS/CARACAL. KURISU IS A GENUINE JAPANESE SURNAME.

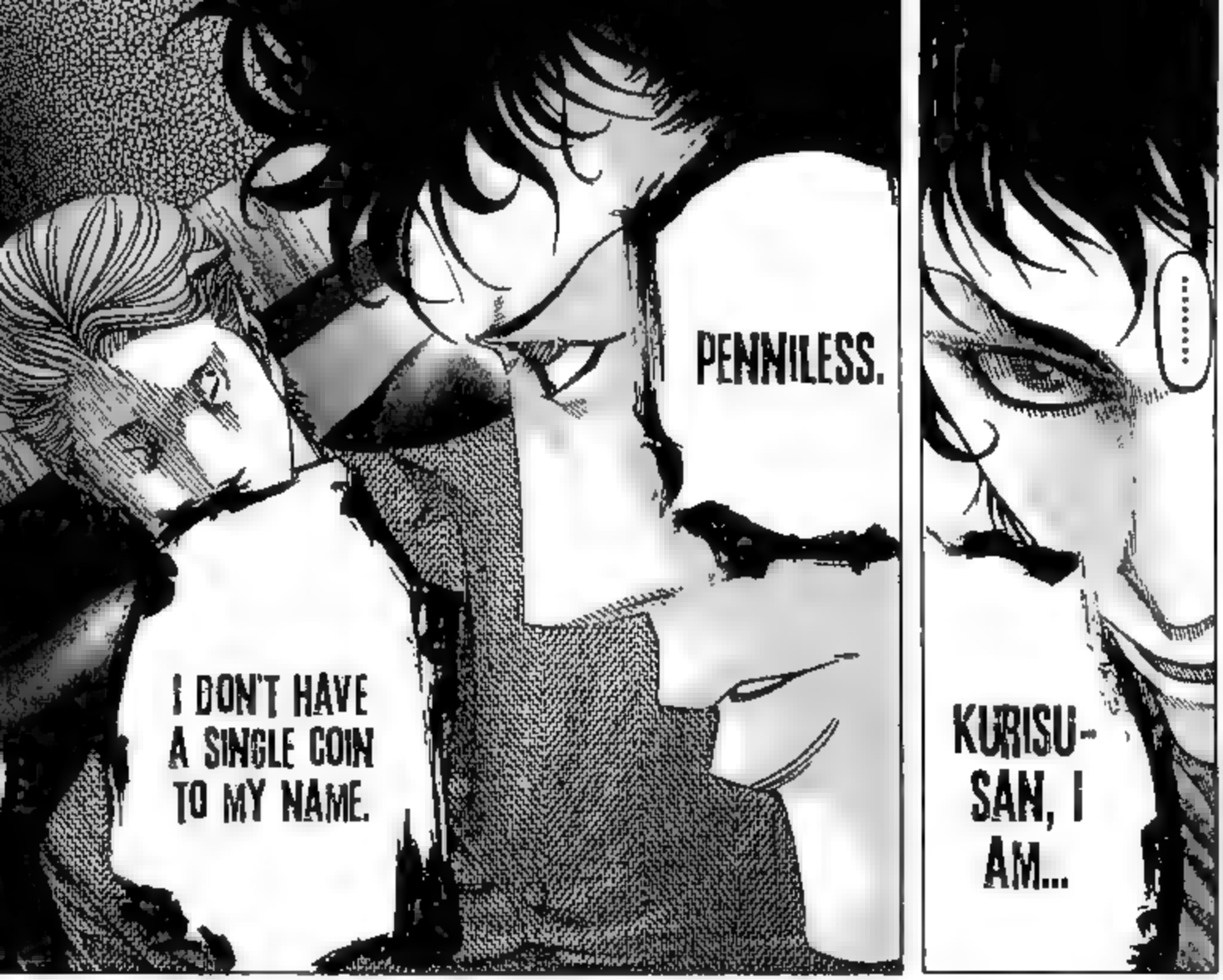
AND IT'S RUDE OF ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF WHILE SEATED...
MY NAME IS KURISU KEISUKE.
I HAD THOUGHT THAT SELF-INTRODUCTIONS WOULD COME... LATER,

WE WERE ABLE TO CONTACT ONE ANOTHER DURING THE ONLINE GAME, BUT I WASN'T ABLE TO MAKE IT TO OUR AGREED MEETING POINT... AND HOW SHOULD I SAY THIS... NOW I'VE BEEN PULLED RIGHT INTO IT BEFORE I GOT A CHANCE TO CONFIRM WHETHER IT'S TRUE OR NOT.
WELL, YOU KNOW...

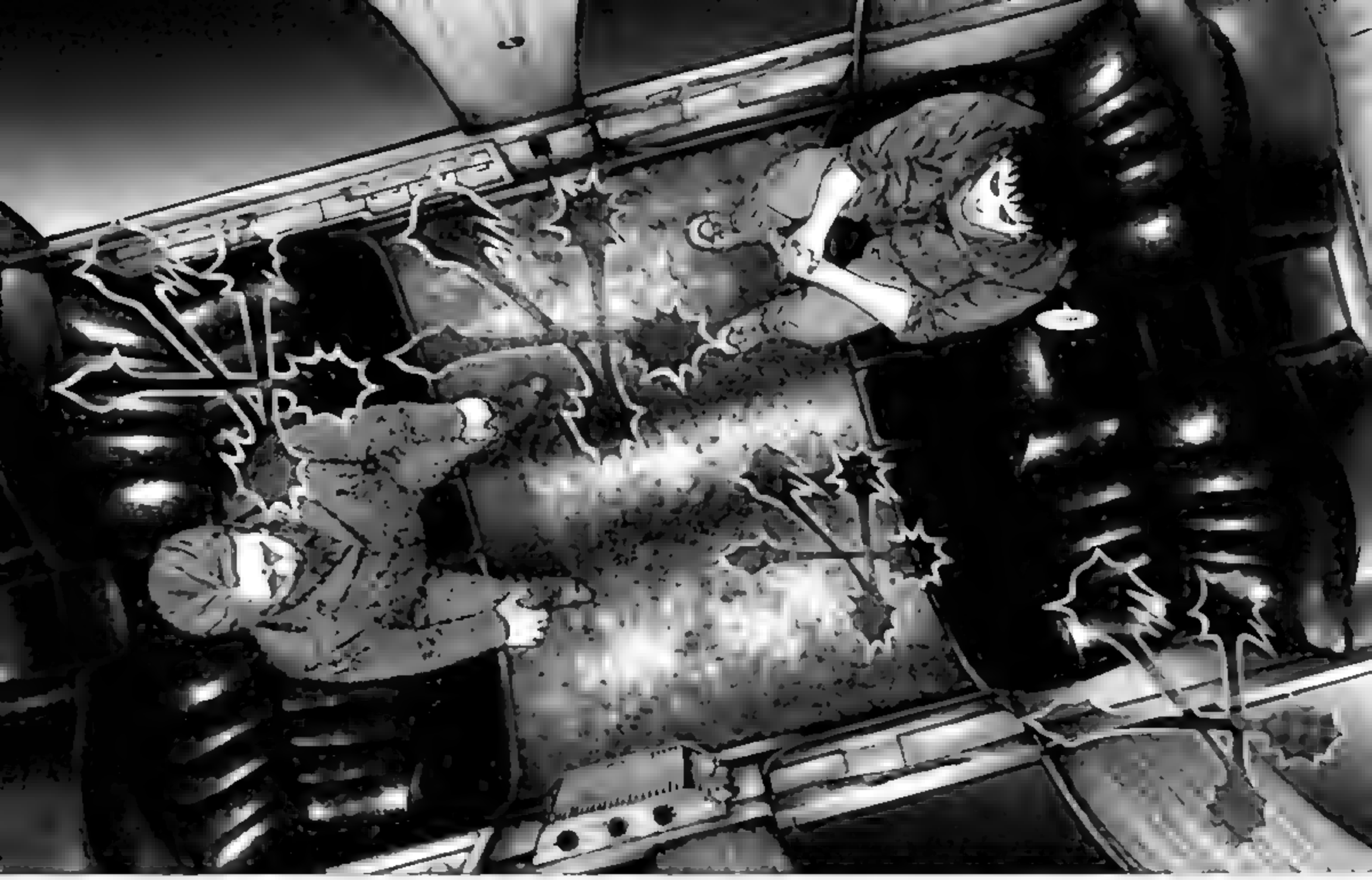

BUT WELL... IT'S ABOUT WHAT I HEARD FROM THE PERSON WHO TAUGHT US ABOUT THIS DEAL... IT SIMPLY DOESN'T LINE UP WITH COMMON SENSE.

SO PLEASE, EXCUSE ME BEFOREHAND IF I'VE MISUNDERSTOOD SOMETHING. TRUTH BE TOLD...

.....

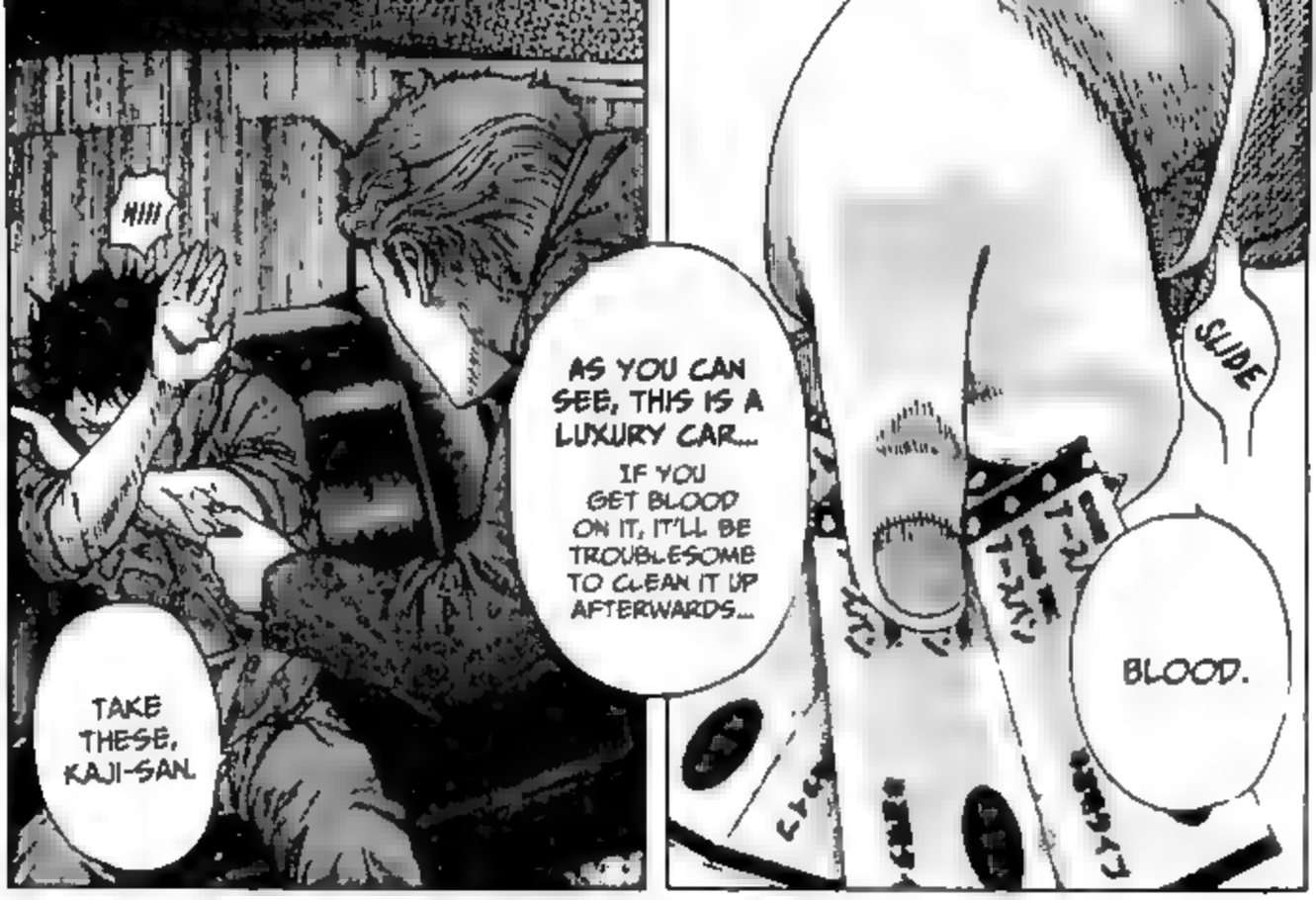

I DON'T HAVE A SINGLE COIN TO MY NAME.
PENNILESS.
KURISU-SAN, I AM...
.....

IS IT TRUE THAT I CAN EARN 100 MILLION IF I WIN THIS GAME?
EVEN SO, WILL I REALLY BE ABLE TO TAKE PART IN THIS GAMBLE?



TO CLEAN IT UP AFTERWARDS.

EH?
JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO, I CONSIDERED THE PLACE I MET THIS GUY TO BE SAFE, JUST BECAUSE THERE WERE COPS WATCHING, BUT...
NO, EVEN BEFORE THAT, THIS ZERO YEN GAMBLE WAS DEFINITELY A FAKE, WASN'T IT!?


HIII
TAKE THESE, KAJI-SAN.
AS YOU CAN SEE, THIS IS A LUXURY CAR...
IF YOU GET BLOOD ON IT, IT'LL BE TROUBLESOME TO CLEAN IT UP AFTERWARDS...
SLIDE
BLOOD.

.....
EH?
A FIGHT WITH YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
HE HE HE, HOW DID IT HAPPEN?
I MEAN, THAT WOUND...

HAHA... S-SOME-THING LIKE THAT...

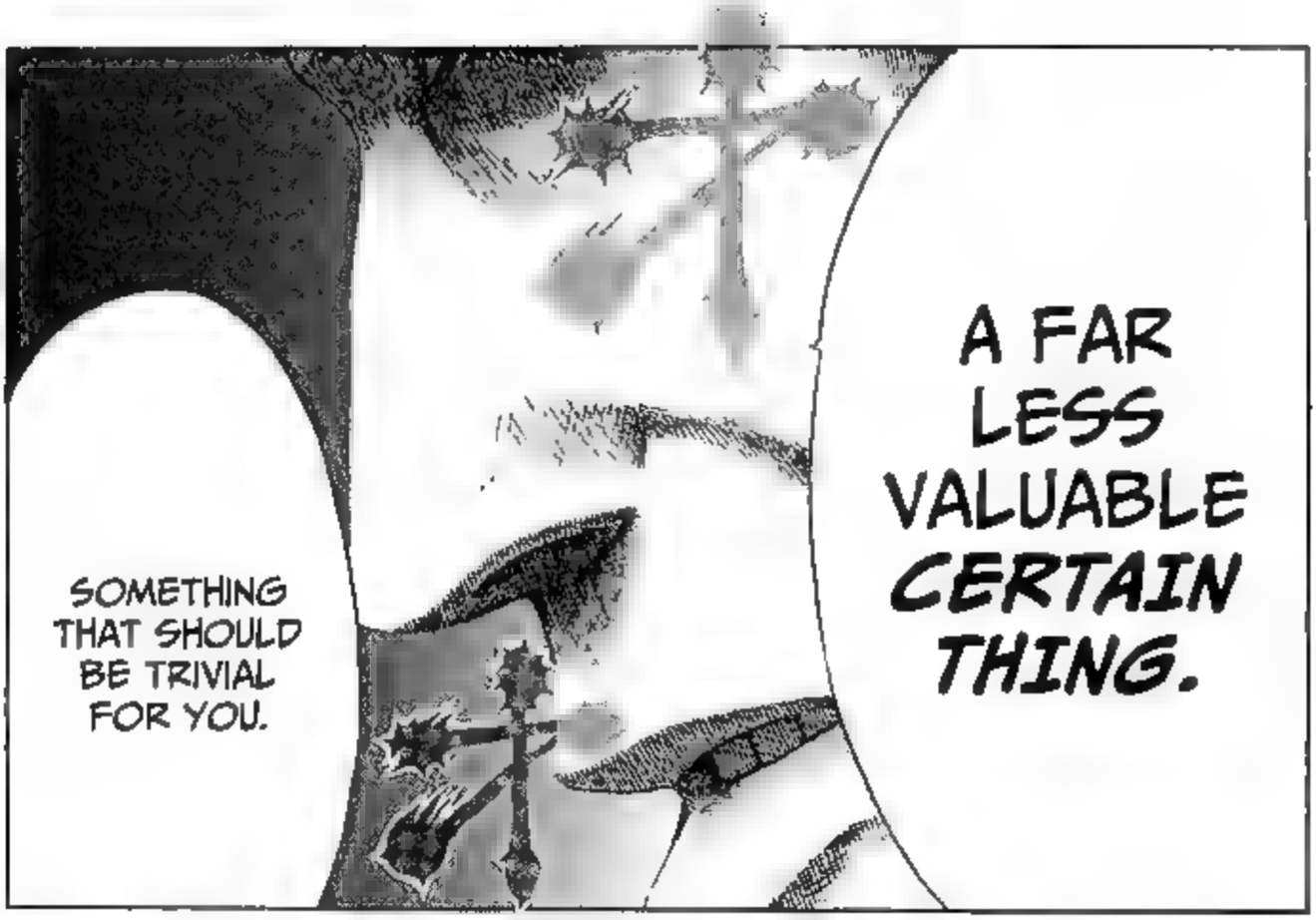
AHH...
.....
AH...
HAH... HAHA...

!
IT'S ALRIGHT, KAJI-SAN.
YOU WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE A BET, WITH ALMOST NO RISK.
THAT STORY, THE ONE YOU JUST TOLD ME, IS TRUE... IN A LITTLE WHILE,
'ALMOST'? WHEN YOU SAID ALMOST NO RISK... WHAT DID 'ALMOST' IMPLY?
.....
IN OTHER WORDS, HAVING ABSOLUTELY ZERO YEN... BEING 'PENNILESS' IS ALRIGHT.

YOU'LL HAVE TO WAGER SOMETH.NG, THAT'S WHY THIS IS CALLED A BET.
HOW-EVER...

KAJI-SAN... WHATEVER I MAY SAY,
THIS IS, ABOVE ALL ELSE, A BET.

YOU WILL NOT BE SENT TO DO EXTREMELY HARD LABOR UNTIL YOU DIE; NOTHING ON THAT SCALE WILL HAPPEN.
EVEN IF YOU LOSE THE BET... YOUR LIFE WILL NOT BE TAKEN,
PLEASE BE AT EASE... KAJI-SAN, WE WILL ASK YOU TO WAGER...


SOMETHING THAT SHOULD BE TRIVIAL FOR YOU.
A FAR LESS VALUABLE CERTAIN THING.

THAT'S PLAIN STUPID... HOW CAN YOU ASK SUCH A STUPID THING WITH THAT SERIOUS FACE ..
ANYWAY YOU'D BETTER SEE IT YOURSELF WHEN THE TIME COMES

SO YOU'RE ASKING ME, WHAT YOU'LL BET?

WHAT MIGHT THAT CERTAIN THING BE...?
I'M JUST CURIOUS,
...
KURISU-SAN...
THAT'D MAKE YOU CURIOUS...
HAHA, OBVIOUS-LY,
!!

A BIKE SUDDENLY PULLED IN FRONT OF US, SO...

PARDON ME...

HEY HEY, WHAT'S THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN... BE CAREFUL.

?

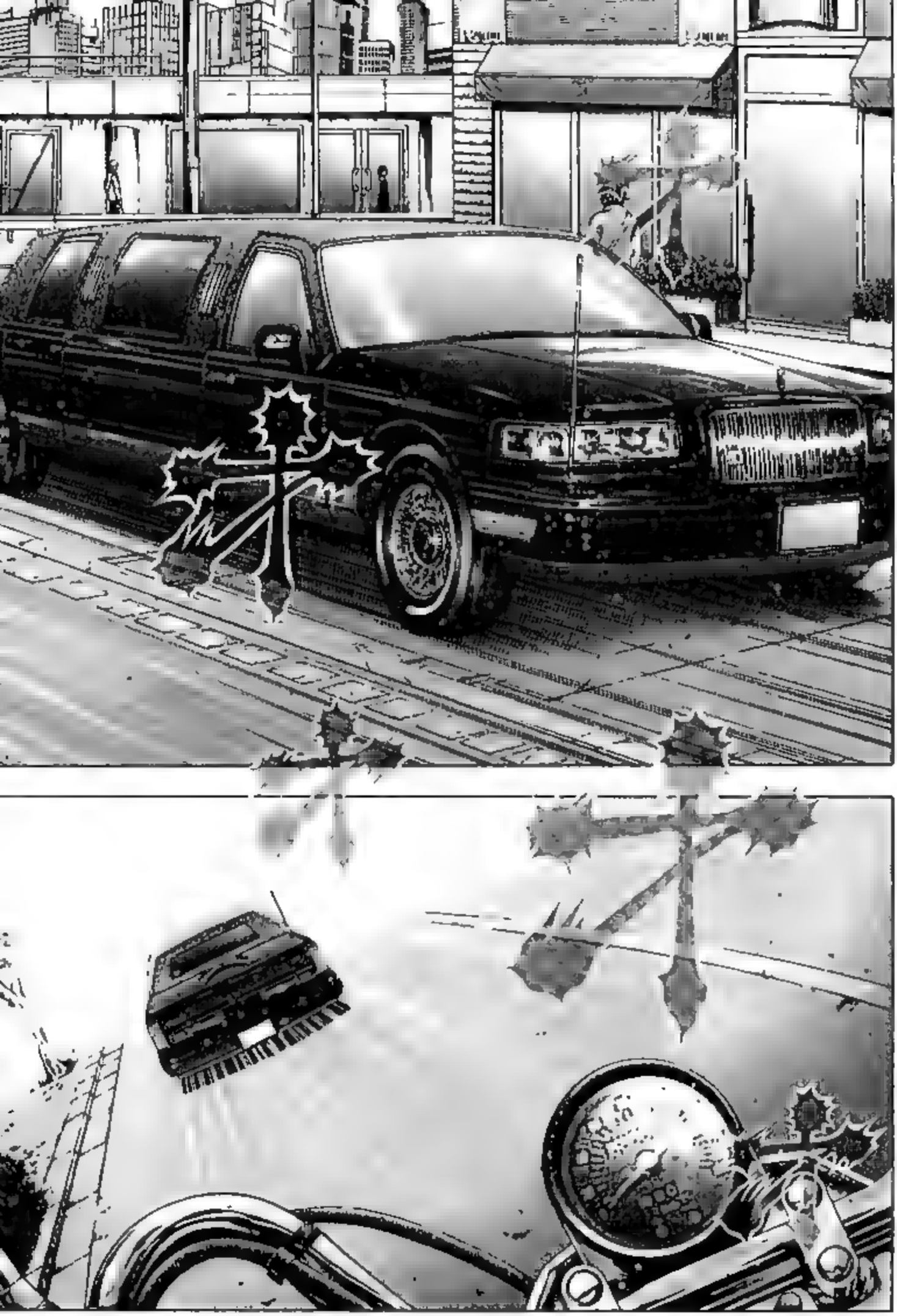
.....

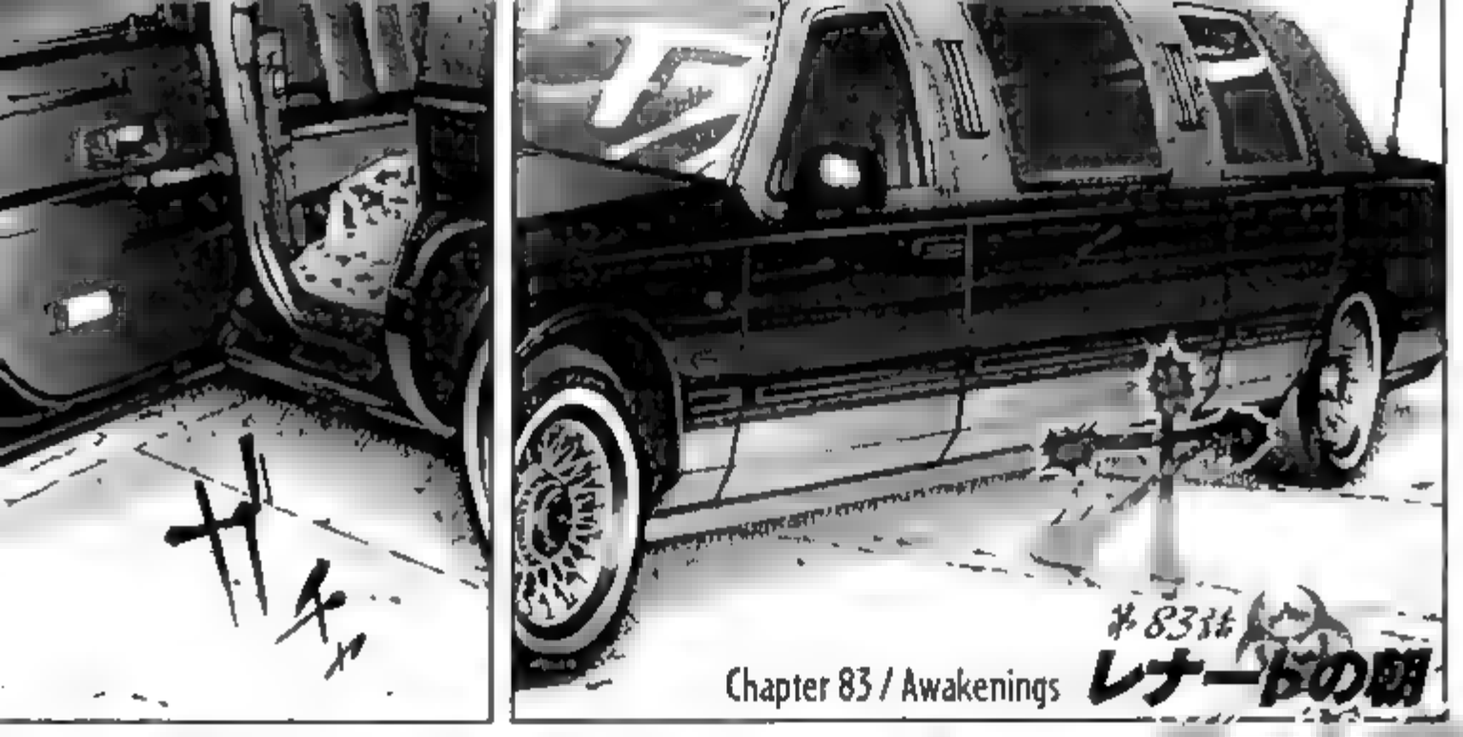
WELL THEN, YOU SHOULD...

SO PLEASE, INQUIRE ABOUT ANY FURTHER DETAILS DIRECTLY TO YOUR OPPONENT WHEN YOU MEET HIM.

KAJI-SAN, WE ARE ABOUT TO ARRIVE AT OUR DESTINATION... ACTUALLY, MY DUTY IS TO WELCOME AND SEE OUR GUESTS OFF.

LOOSEN UP AND ENJOY...
THIS ONCE IN A LIFETIME GAMBLE...
R... REALLY?
HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS THIS IS
THIS IS EXTREMELY SUSPICIOUS!
YEAH, SUSPICIOUS, BUT STILL I'M CURI- OUS WHAT THE HELL
IS THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS GAMBLE...!?

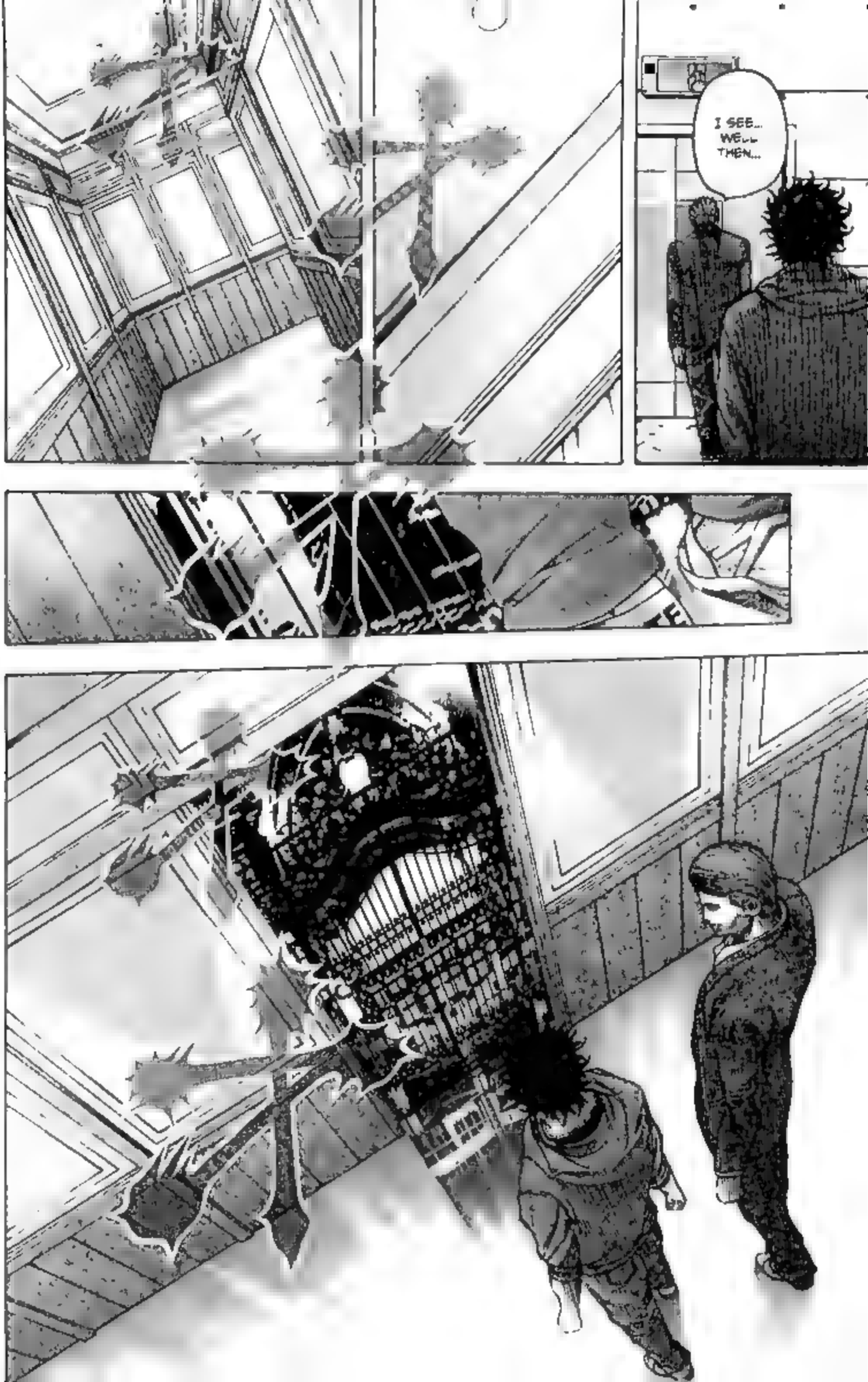




Chapter 83 / Awakenings レナードの朝

Chapter 83
Awakenings

....
!
I CAN'T SAY ANYTH.NG MORE... KAJI-SAN...
IT'S OKAY, REALLY... I WAS ONLY A LITTLE BIT CURIOUS, THAT'S ALL.
OH NO...
IF YOU ARE DISSATISFIED SO FAR, YOU ALSO HAVE THE OPTION... TO TURN BACK.
I CAME THIS FAR, AND I'M NOT TURNING BACK...
...UNTIL I DISCOVER THE TRUE NATURE OF THAT SUSPICIOUS STORY...
BESIDES...
I DON'T LET SUCH SMALL MATTERS BOTHER ME... AND THAT'S THE TRUTH.
KURISU-SAN, IF WHAT YOU SAID WERE TRUE, I WILL BE ABLE TO HAVE AN ALMOST NO-RISK BET IN HERE.
RIGHT..
THEY MAY BE HIDING THIS PLACE FROM ME, BUT IT'S USELESS
BAKU-SAN IS SUPPOSED TO BE TRACKING THIS PLACE

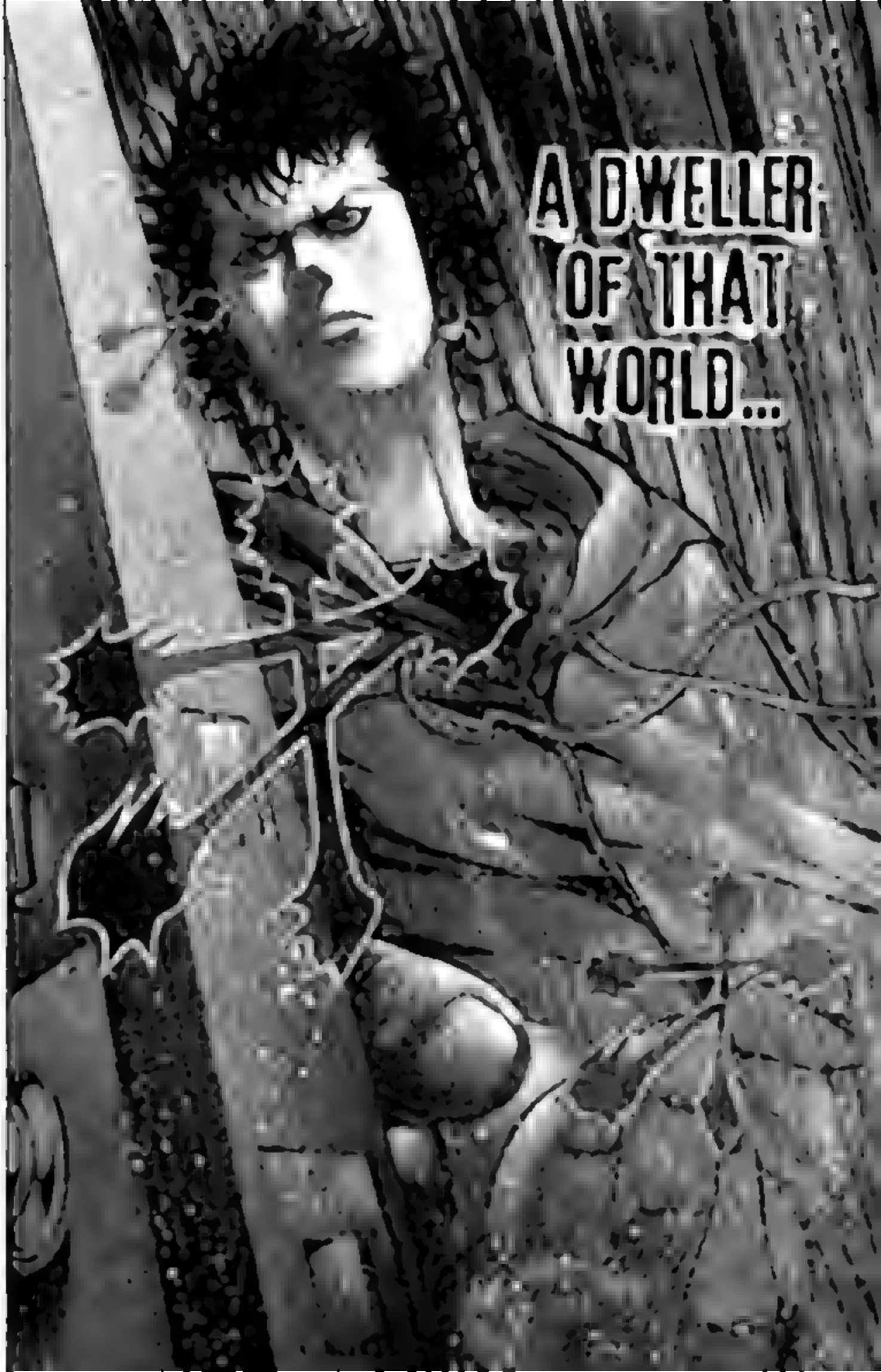

I SEE... WELL THEN...

I'LL BE PRAYING ...
AND,
I WILL BE BACK AROUND THE TIME THE GAME ENDS.
BE OUR GUEST, KAJI-SAN.

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I INTENTIONALLY PUT MY LIFE AT STAKE...
FOR YOUR GREAT VICTORY, KAJI-SAN.

THIS WORLD IS AN ENORMOUS GAMBLING DEN...
THESE SWEET STORIES OF A NO-RISK GAMBLE DON'T EXIST THERE...
I AM ALREADY...

AND I'VE ALSO SEEN MANY INHUMAN MONSTERS...
AFTER ALL, SELF-SATISFACTION IS THE VERY REASON FOR ALL HUMAN ACTS...
TEN MILLION -
AREN'T YOU LOSING?


A DWELLER OF THAT WORLD...

嘘嘘い❸。

HEY,
SO YOU CAME.

GOOD TIMING, I'VE JUST FINISHED ONE OF MY WORKS.
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
I'M GLAD I DIDN'T WASTE ANYTHING.

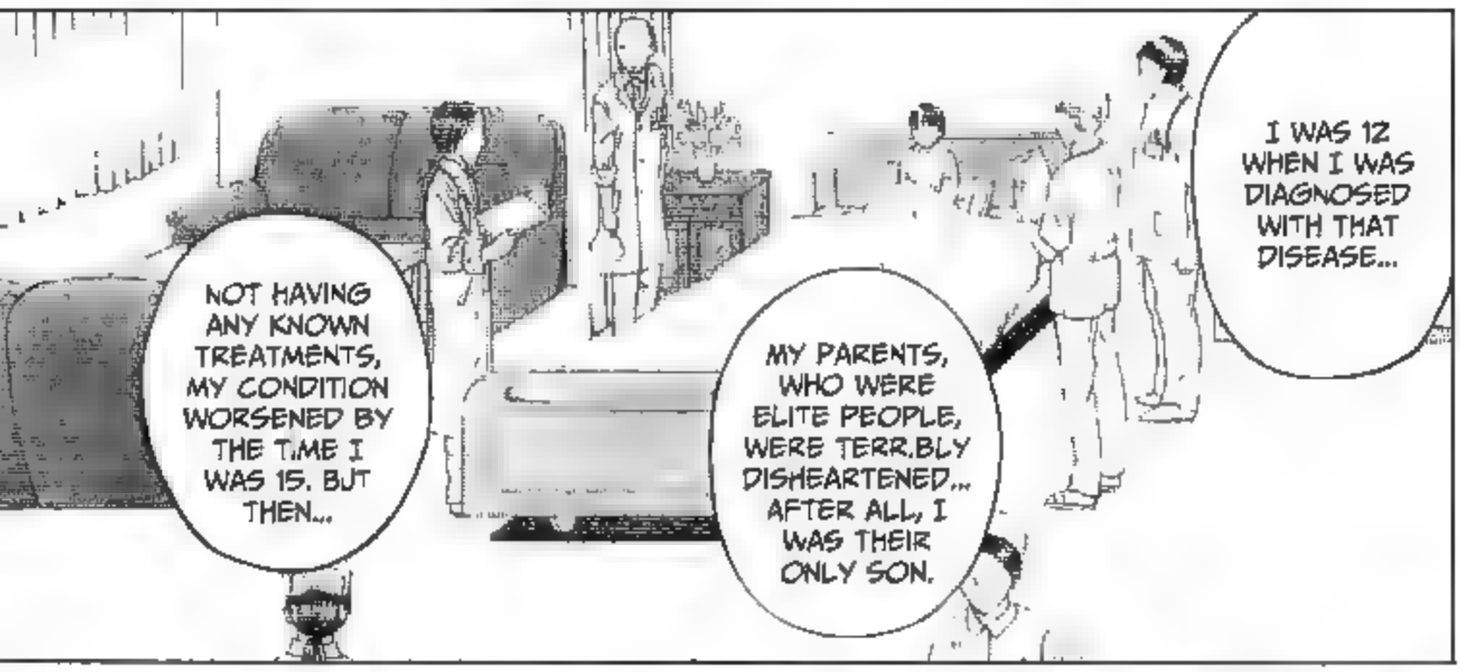
.....
OUR GAME.
ALRIGHT, LET'S START...
AH,
HJH? WHY THE SCARY FACE?
AAH RIGHT, I SEE, I SEE...
...
FIRST OF ALL, YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU WILL BET ON...
RIGHT?
BEING HERE EACH TIME STARTED TO MAKE ME ASSUME MY VISITORS ARE AWARE OF IT.
THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME IN HERE, SO IT'S JUST NATURAL THAT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING...

KAJI-KUN... OKAY...
SO, TELL ME...
MY NAME IS KAJI.
UHM... SO, YOU ARE..
WELL...
YES, THAT'S RIGHT...

...THAT YOU'D NEVER EVER EXCHANGE WITH MONEY, DON'T YOU?
YOU MUST HAVE *SOMETHING IMPORTANT*...

THIS IS ABOUT ME, ACTUALLY... I THINK OUR AGES ARE CLOSE IN TERMS OF YEARS.
BUT IN THE PAST, I SUFFERED FROM A SERIOUS ILLNESS, YOU SEE.
NO, NEVER MIND. YOU DON'T NEED TO HAVE ANYTHING LIKE *THAT* THIS TIME...
YOU CAN JUST KEEP IT TO YOURSELF IN YOUR OWN MIND.
YEAH. ACTUALLY I...
UHM... WELL...

HAVE YOU WATCHED A MOVIE CALLED "AWAKENINGS"?
THEY MENTIONED SOMETHING IN THAT MOVIE,
A PARTICULAR DISEASE CALLED ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA, OR "SLEEPY SICKNESS". UNFORTUNATELY, I WAS A VICTIM OF THAT DISEASE.

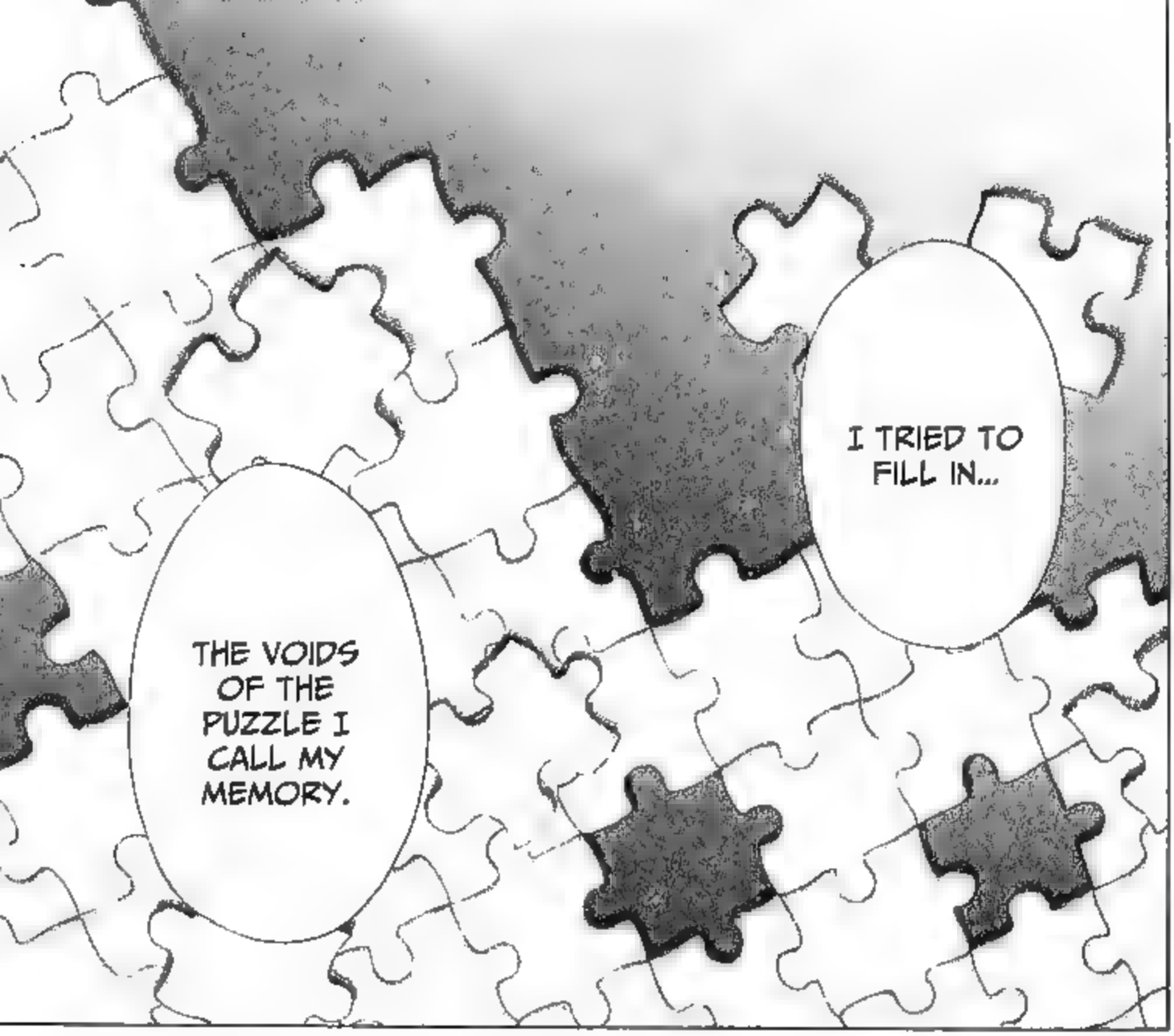

I WAS 12 WHEN I WAS DIAGNOSED WITH THAT DISEASE...
MY PARENTS, WHO WERE ELITE PEOPLE, WERE TERR.BLY DISHEARTENED... AFTER ALL, I WAS THEIR ONLY SON.
NOT HAVING ANY KNOWN TREATMENTS, MY CONDITION WORSENED BY THE TIME I WAS 15. BUT THEN...

IN MY CASE IT WENT AS FAR AS STOPPING MY MOVEMENT AND THOUGHTS BECAUSE OF THAT...

HM... YOU DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND, DO YOU? ALTHOUGH THIS DISEASE HAS A WIDE VARIETY OF SYMPTOMS,

I SEE...
TWO YEARS AGO, I M.RACU-LOUSLY RECOVERED, AND NOW I'M STANDING HERE RIGHT NOW.

THERE IS A 10 YEAR GAP...
RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF MY LIFE.
WHEN I CAME TO MY SENSES, I ALREADY HAD A BODY OF A FULLY GROWN MAN...
HOWEVER, THOSE 10 YEARS HAD A HUGE TOLL. AT FIRST, I COULDN'T EVEN STAND OR TALK THE WAY I WANTED.
OF COURSE I WAS SHOCKED, BUT THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR DEPRESSION... AS I WAS REHAB.LITATING, I STARTED A CERTAIN THING...
EH?


I TRIED TO FILL IN...
THE VOIDS OF THE PUZZLE I CALL MY MEMORY.

FRAGMENTS FROM PEOPLE'S ACTUAL LIVES WHICH THEY TRULY EXPERIENCED...
BRIDGING THE 10-YEAR MEMORY GAP WITH A COMPILATION OF REAL EXPERIENCES BECAME MY PURPOSE IN LIFE.
IT MAY SEEM LIKE I'VE GIVEN UP LIKE A COWARD, BUT I BELIEVE FINISHING THAT GOAL I'VE SET ON MYSELF WILL LET ME BEGIN A SECOND CHAPTER OF MY LIFE.

WHEN I RECOVERED AND CAME TO MY SENSES, MY PARENTS ALREADY LEFT ME BEHIND WITH LOTS OF MONEY... I HAD ALL THE MONEY THAT I NEEDED.
BUT I HAVE A POLICY, YOU SEE.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN *THAT* THROUGH TRANSACTIONS THAT INVOLVE MONEY.

IT WAS MEANINGFUL AS LONG AS I WON IT PURELY THROUGH MY OWN POWER... THROUGH THE GAMBLES,
THROUGH THE GAMES I PLAYED AGAINST VISITORS LIKE YOU, I STARTED COLLECTING IT.

THE THING THAT I'LL BET ON WILL BE...
IN OTHER WORDS...
WHICH MEANS... ERM...
W...
TAP

RIGHT... THAT THING IS YOUR EXPERIENCE.
IT IS YOUR TIME WHICH WILL FILL A PART OF THE VOID PERIOD OF MY LIFE.

THAT'S PLAIN STUPID... HOW CAN YOU ASK SUCH A STUPID THING WITH THAT SERIOUS FACE
YOU'RE ASKING ME, WHAT YOU'LL BET?
MY.. EXPERIEN-CES..

THE VOID IN MY MEMORY HAS BEEN TAKING SHAPE GRADUALLY.

LET'S CUT TO THE CHASE I WANT YOU TO BET ON YOUR EXPERIENCES.
HOWEVER, I STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE IT'S COMPLETE...
IT'S ALL THANKS TO THE MANY DAYS AND HOURS OF EXPERIENCE THAT I WON FROM THE PEOPLE THAT CAME HERE...

WAIT A SECOND... NOT YET... I STILL... HAVE TO FIGURE OUT...
THE REAL INTENTION OF THIS BET...
WHAT?
SOMEHOW...
THIS STORY...
...ACTUALLY...
IS SOUNDING MORE LIKE A FAIRY TALE...
AH. NO WAY, KAJI-KUN! DID YOU PERHAPS THINK THAT...
DON'T... TELL ME HE'S...
!
THIS STORY SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.
THIS WORLD IS AN ENORMOUS GAMBLING DEN
IN THAT WORLD...
I PROMISE THAT I WILL NOT CAUSE ANY HARM TO YOUR BODY.
I'D TAMPER WITH YOUR BRAIN AND STEAL YOUR MEMORIES, JUST LIKE IN THE SCIENCE FICTION MOVIES?
ON A SIDE NOTE, I'D LIKE TO KNOW IF SUCH A TECHNOLOGY EXISTS.

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We are looking for a **cleaner** for this series!
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WILDLY ALLURING THROUGH THE ART OF COAXING...
THIS MAN...
IN THAT WORLD...
THESE SWEET STORIES CANNOT EXIST...
MAY BE ONE WHO USES MONEY AS BAIT TO HUNT HIS PREY...
ALRIGHT THEN.
LET'S BEGIN.
A MONSTER...?!

HELLO.
Chapter 84
Demon King Advent
AW MAN... IT FIGU-RES.
I GOT IT, KYARA-SAN.
EH?
AH, ABOUT KAJI-CHAN... HMM, WELL.
STAY ON THEIR TAILS, OKAY?

KYARA-SAN.
... YEAH. IT'S ALL GOOD,
CREAK
.....
FROM WHAT I CAN FORESEE,
KAJI-CHAN WILL BE FINE IF HE PLAYS SECOND.

Chapter 84
Demon King Advent

第84話
魔王降臨

PLEASE, TAKE A SEAT.
KAJI-KUN.

?
WELL...
THIS IS CERTAINLY D.FFERENT.

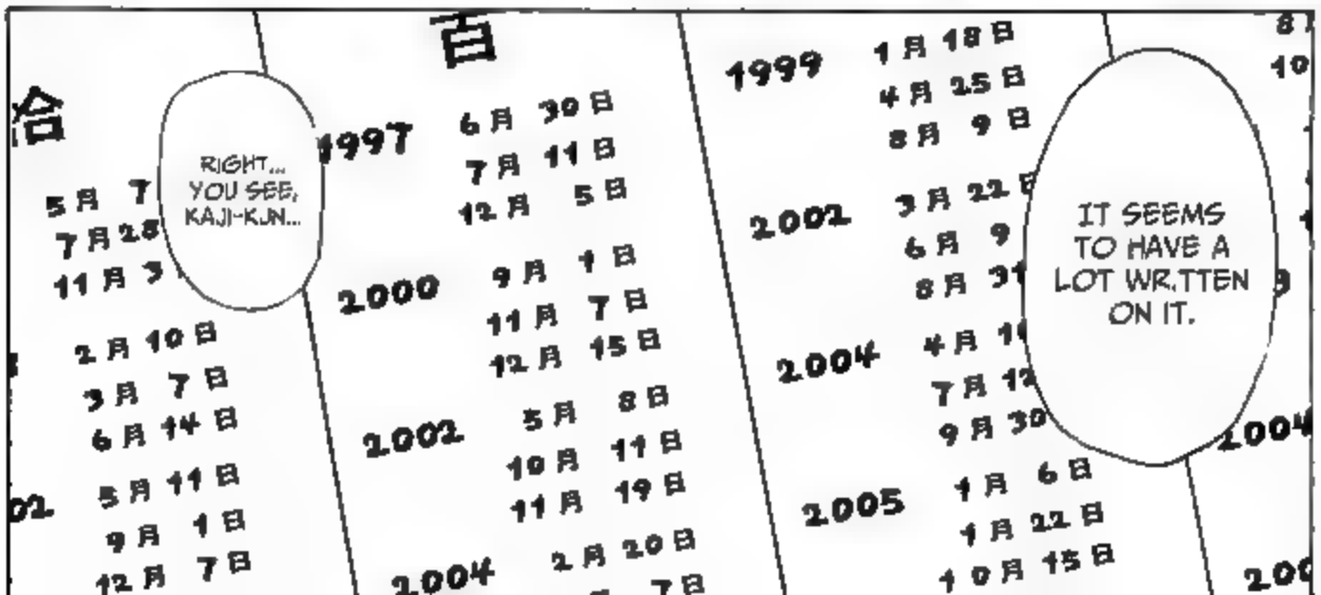
IT LOOKS LIKE A LANDSCAPE... BJT MOST OF THEM ARE OF SCHOOLS OR BUILDINGS AND SUCH.
THIS ONE...
THESE ARE REALLY WELL EM-BELLISHED PAINTINGS.

YEAH.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN DRAWING JNUSUAL THINGS...
THAT DRAWING YOU DID EARLIER WASN'T OF A REGULAR HOUSE, WAS IT?

MOST OF MY DRAWINGS ARE ABOUT SUCH PLACES...
WELL, I CAN SAY THAT...

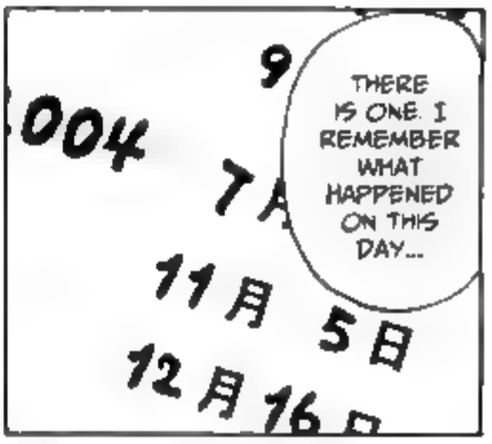
AH... JHM, ALSO...
AH.
MOST...?
.....

YEAH... WHAT IS THAT?
THIS?
THE THING BEHIND YOU...


RIGHT... YOU SEE, KAJI-KUN...
IT SEEMS TO HAVE A LOT WRITTEN ON IT.

2004
2005
2006
WHAT YOU SEE THERE ARE THE MISSING DAYS OF MY RE-CONSTRUCTED MEMORY.
YOU WILL BE BETTING ON...
THE MEMORY OF A DAY... THAT OCCURRED ON ONE OF THOSE DATES.
WHETHER THAT MEMORY IS REAL OR NOT... IS NOT SOMETHING I CAN CONFIRM, BUT I'LL LEAVE THAT TO YOUR INNER CONSCIENCE.
FOR NOW, I'LL HAVE YOU CHOOSE A DAY FROM THAT LIST THAT YOU HAVE CLEAR MEMORIES OF.
I CAN'T FORCE YOU TO REMEMBER EVERY LAST DETAIL... BUT, I'D BE GLAD IF YOU CHOSE ONE THAT YOU STILL HAVE SOME MEMORIES OF.
BIRTHDAY...?
AH.
IF YOU CAN'T USE ANY OF THESE DATES, I CAN PREPARE ANOTHER LIST, BUT...
NONE OF THOSE DAYS WORK? NOT EVEN YOUR BIRTHDAY...?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

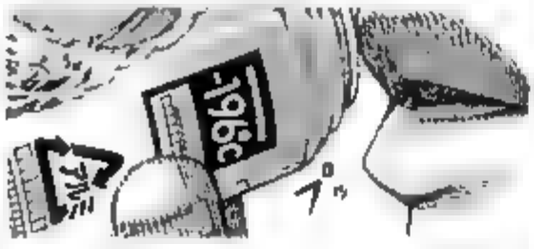
WELL... LET ME HEAR ABOUT IT A LITTLE AND WE'LL SEE.
IF AN EXPERIENCE LIKE THIS IS OKAY.
BUT I WONDER...


9
004
11月 5日
12月16日
THERE IS ONE. I REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED ON THIS DAY...

I SAW MY MOTHER THERE, WHOM I NORMALLY NEVER MEET AT ALL.
WHEN I WAS BACK HOME FOR SOME REASON,
NOVEMBER 5TH, 2004 THAT DAY WAS MY BIRTHDAY.

THEN WE WENT TO THE SEASIDE
HUH? SURE, I GUESS.

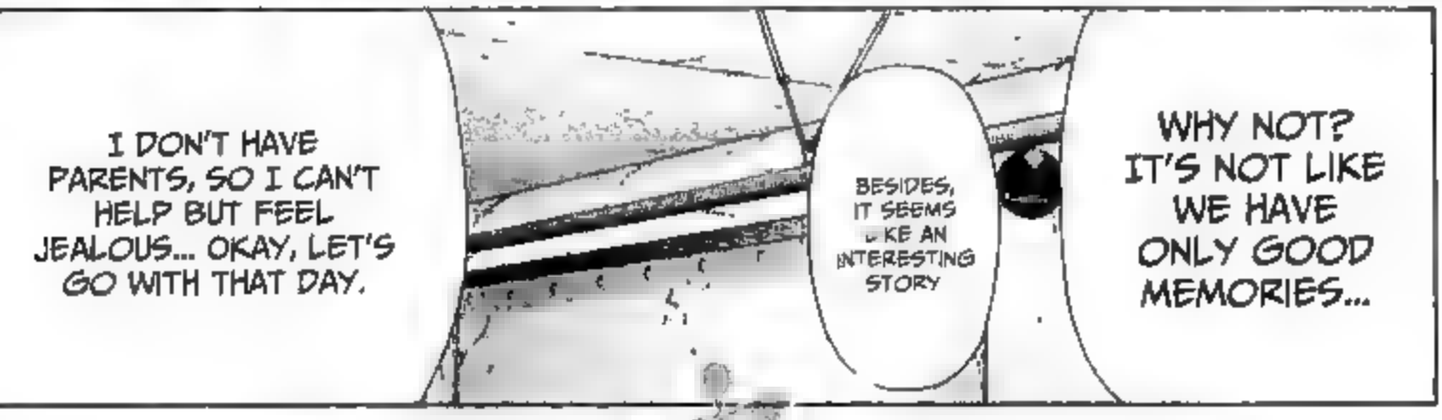
TODAY'S YOUR BIRTHDAY, ISN'T IT?
TAKAOMI
WHAT'S GOING ON MOM?


1996
7"

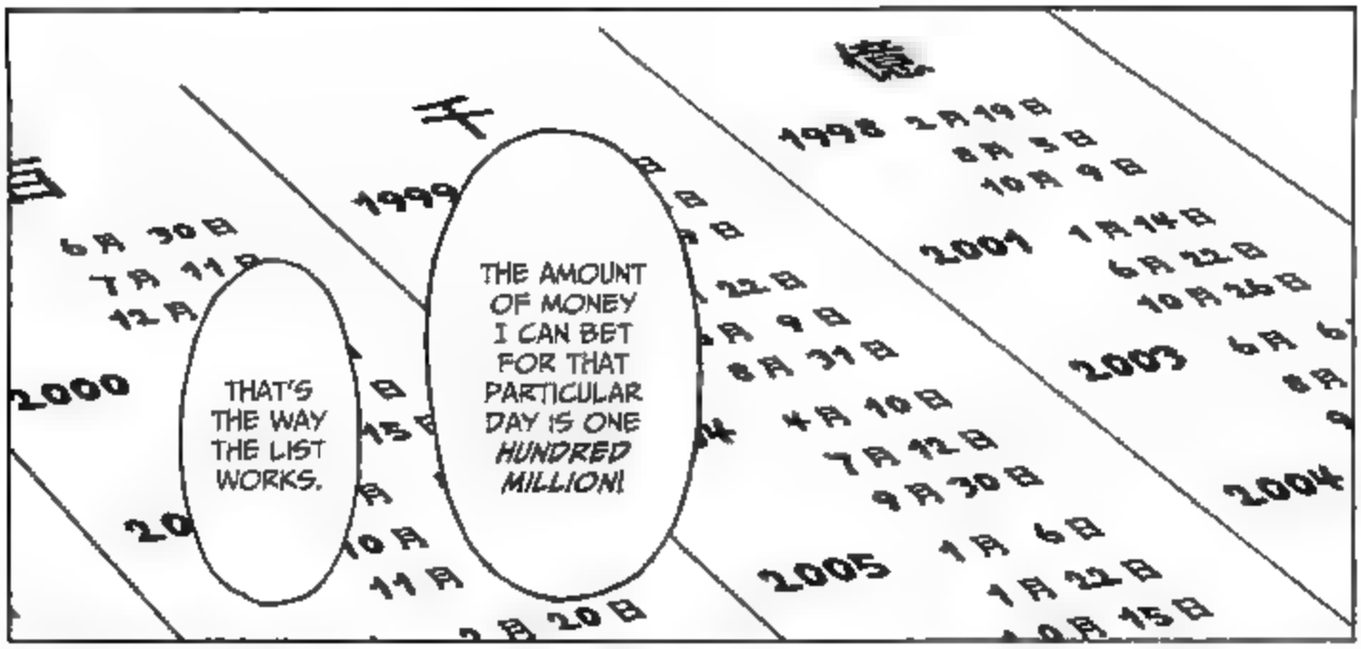
WHY A SEASIDE LIKE THIS?
"DEEP SIGH"
TIP TOE

WANNA GO...
TO THE SEASIDE?

BEFORE I KNEW IT, MOM WAS SWIMMING IN THE SEA.
!!
STEP
AH, I FOUND 10 YEN.
"DID YOU WANT TO SWIM THAT MUCH?"
... WAS WHAT I SAID TO HER BACK THEN, BUT SHE SNAPPED WITH A TERRIBLE EXPRESSION ON HER FACE... YEAH, THIS STORY IS NO GOOD
.....


WHY NOT? IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAVE ONLY GOOD MEMORIES...
BESIDES, IT SEEMS LIKE AN INTERESTING STORY
I DON'T HAVE PARENTS, SO I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL JEALOUS... OKAY, LET'S GO WITH THAT DAY.

AS YOU CAN SEE ON THE RATES LIST,
I'LL BET ONE HUNDRED MILLION.
A... HUN-DRED... MILL-ION?
HUH?
COME ON, YOU DIDN'T NOTICE?
IT'S WRITTEN ON THAT LIST...


THAT'S THE WAY THE LIST WORKS.
THE AMOUNT OF MONEY I CAN BET FOR THAT PARTICULAR DAY IS ONE *HUNDRED MILLION!*

WH... WHY...
THERE'S A STORY ABOUT AN AMAZING GAMBLE

THAT'S JUST NATURAL. SOME OF THOSE DAYS HAVE SIGNIFICANCE, WHILE OTHERS DON'T. THAT PARTICULAR DAY...
SURE.

WHY DOES THAT DAY HAVE SUCH A HIGH PRICE TAG?
CAN YOU TELL ME WHY THE DATES ARE PRICED DIFFERENTLY IN THE FIRST PLACE?

IF I WIN, THAT VALUABLE EXPERIENCE WILL BECOME MINE... WHICH WOULD BE VERY SATISFYING.
... IS MY BIRTHDAY.

THAT DAY COSTS A HUNDRED MILLION...
MAN, HONESTLY...
A HUNDRED MILLION?!
THAT MUSHROOM HEAD'S STORY WAS TRUE...
BUT THAT SORT OF MEMORY...

NOW THEN, LET'S TALK ABOUT THE GAME.

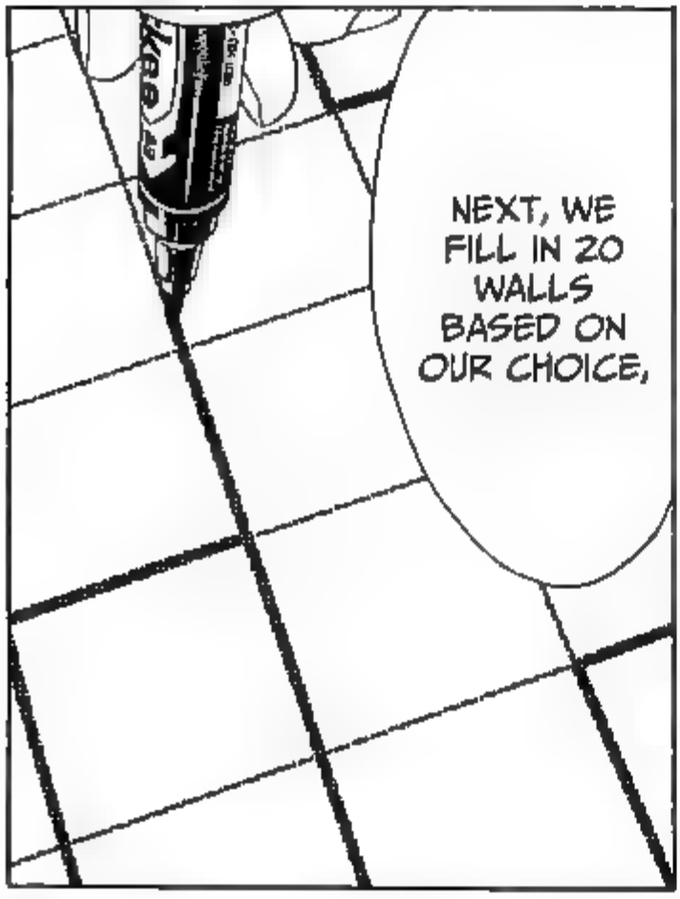
THE GAME IS KNOWN AS...

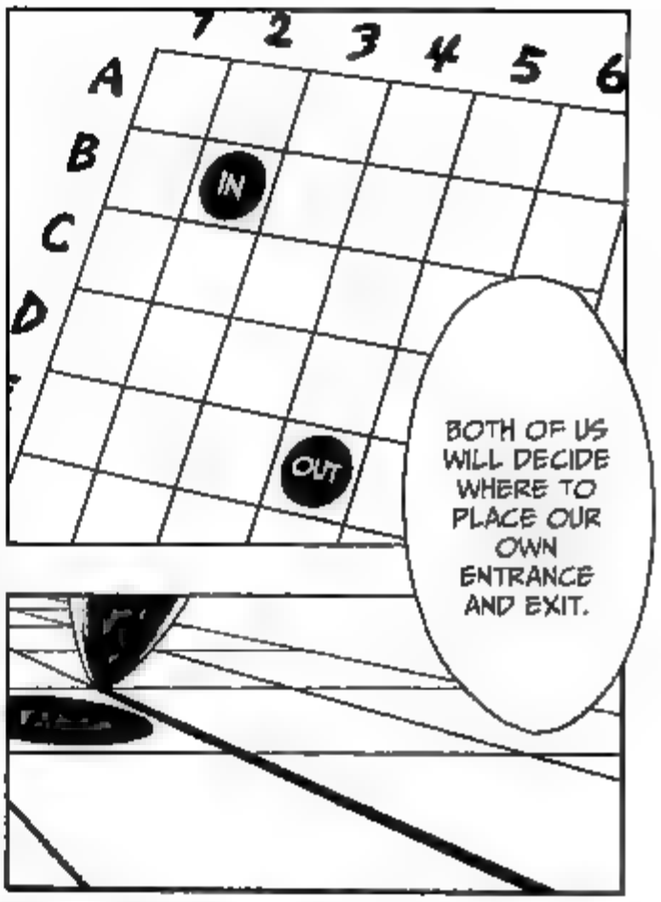
I CAN'T READ MY OPPONENT'S REAL INTENTION...
DOES HE REALLY... WANT NOTHING BUT MEMORIES?

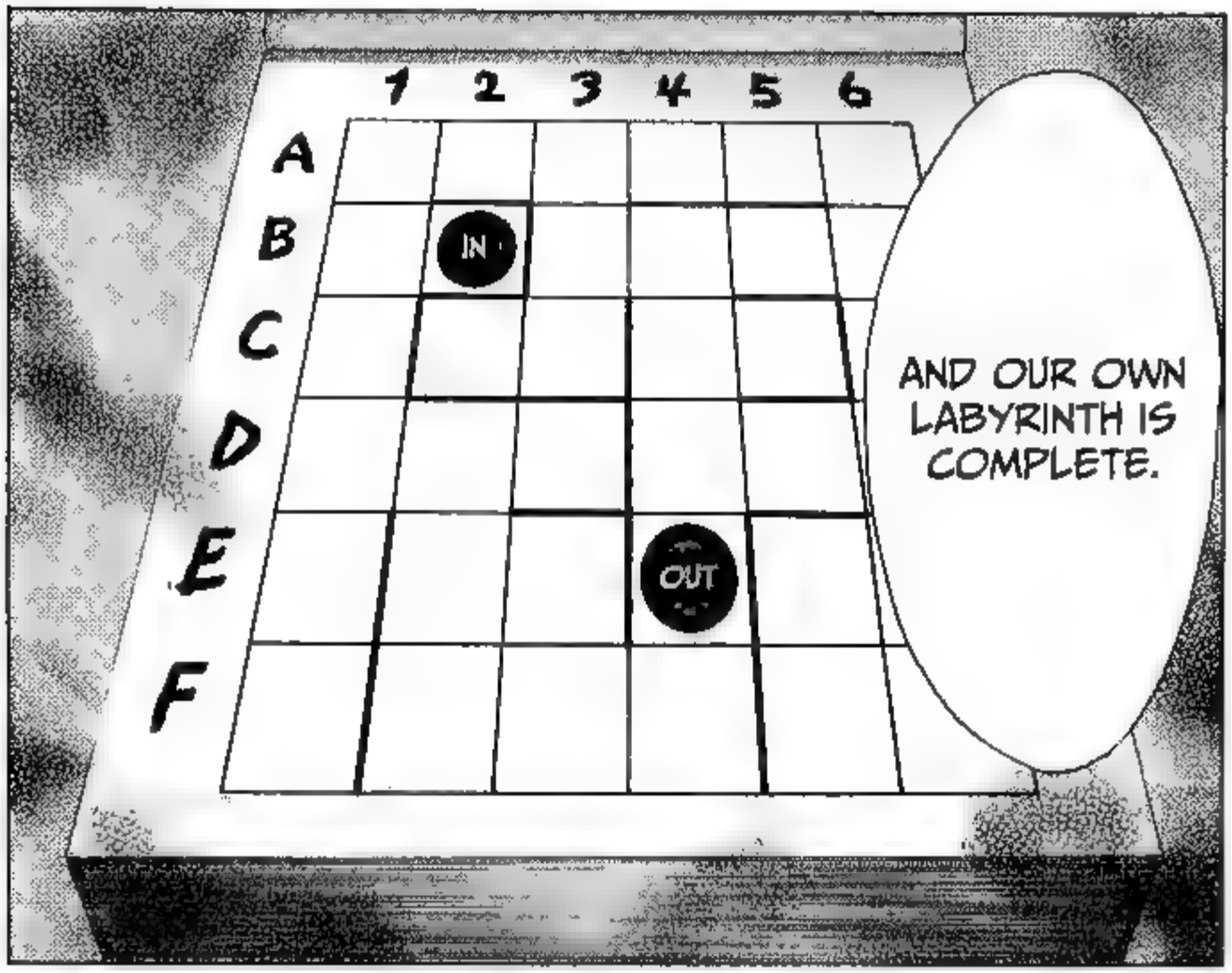
LABYRINTH

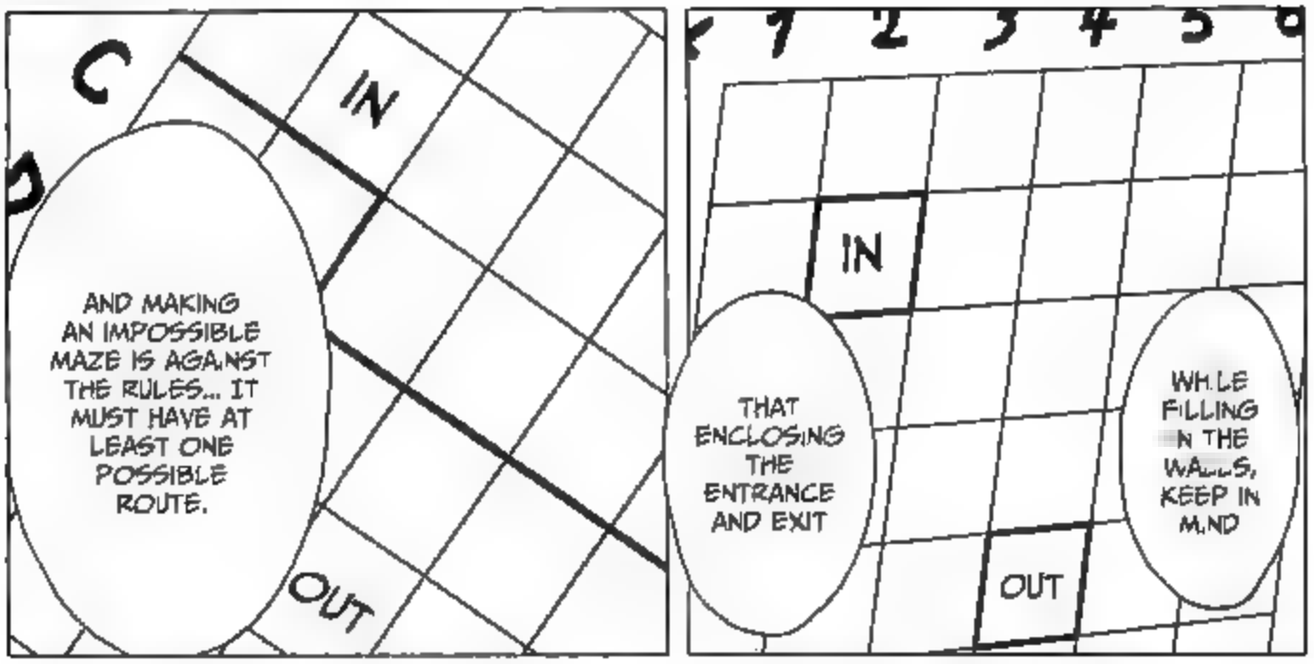
WE'LL USE THESE MEMO PADS WITH 6X6 SQUARE CELLS.
1 2 3 4 5 6
A
B
C
D
E
F

AT THE MOMENT, THIS IS AN EMPTY LABYRINTH.
ON THESE PADS...
1 2 3 4 5 6
D
E
F

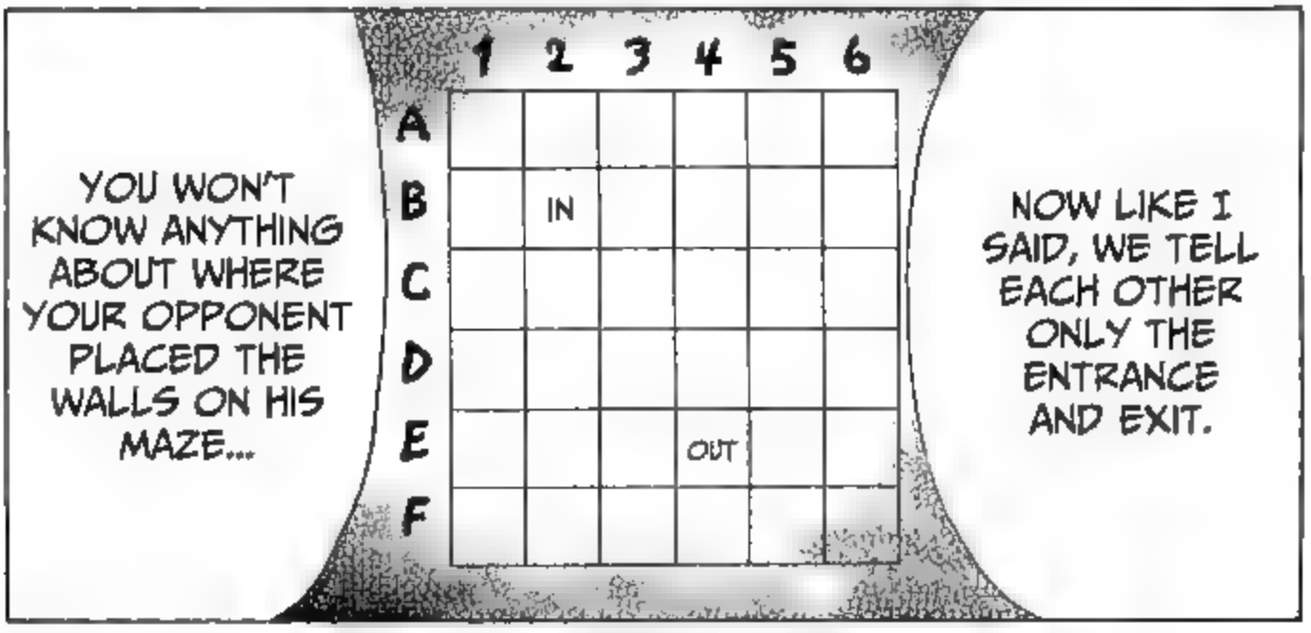

NEXT, WE FILL IN 20 WALLS BASED ON OUR CHOICE,

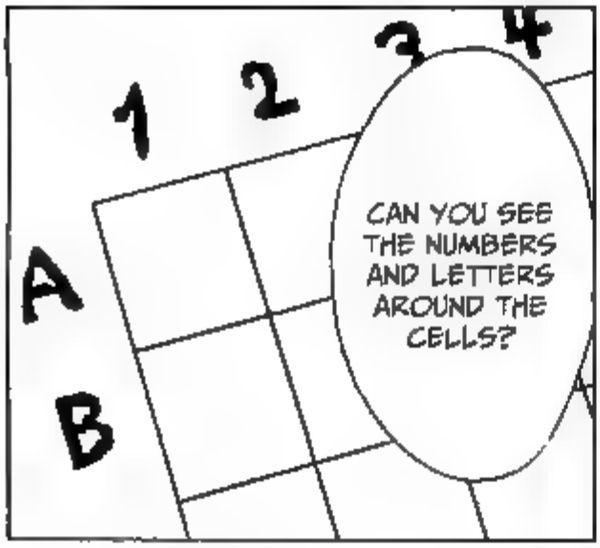

1 2 3 4 5 6
A
B
C
D
IN
OUT
BOTH OF US WILL DECIDE WHERE TO PLACE OUR OWN ENTRANCE AND EXIT.


1 2 3 4 5 6
A
B
C
D
E
F
IN
OUT
AND OUR OWN LABYRINTH IS COMPLETE.

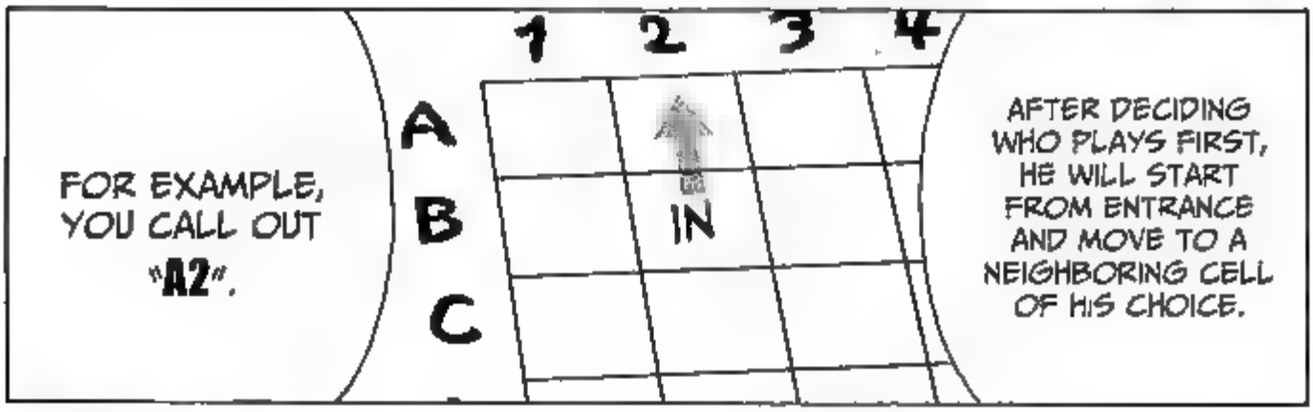

C
D
IN
OUT
AND MAKING AN IMPOSSIBLE MAZE IS AGAINST THE RULES... IT MUST HAVE AT LEAST ONE POSSIBLE ROUTE.
1 2 3 4 5 6
IN
OUT
THAT ENCLOSING THE ENTRANCE AND EXIT
WHILE FILLING IN THE WALLS, KEEP IN MIND

TELL THE OPPONENT ABOUT YOUR MAZE'S ENTRANCE AND EXIT ONLY, AND THE GAME WILL START.
BOTH SIDES WILL AIM AT LEAVING THE OTHER'S MAZE.

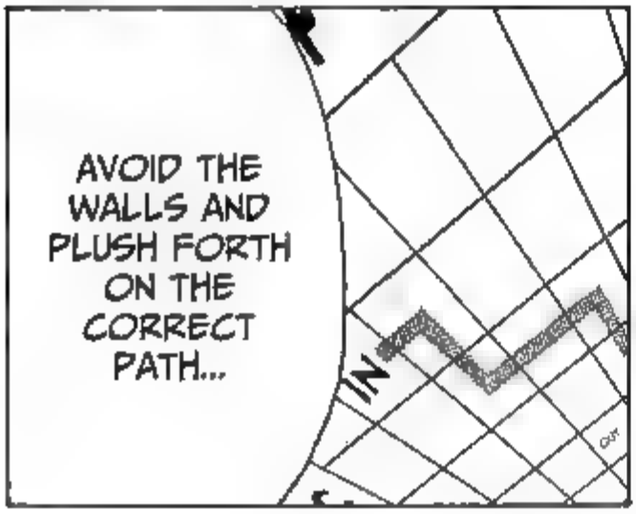

YOU WON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT WHERE YOUR OPPONENT PLACED THE WALLS ON HIS MAZE...
1 2 3 4 5 6
A
B
C
D
E
F
IN
OUT
NOW LIKE I SAID, WE TELL EACH OTHER ONLY THE ENTRANCE AND EXIT.

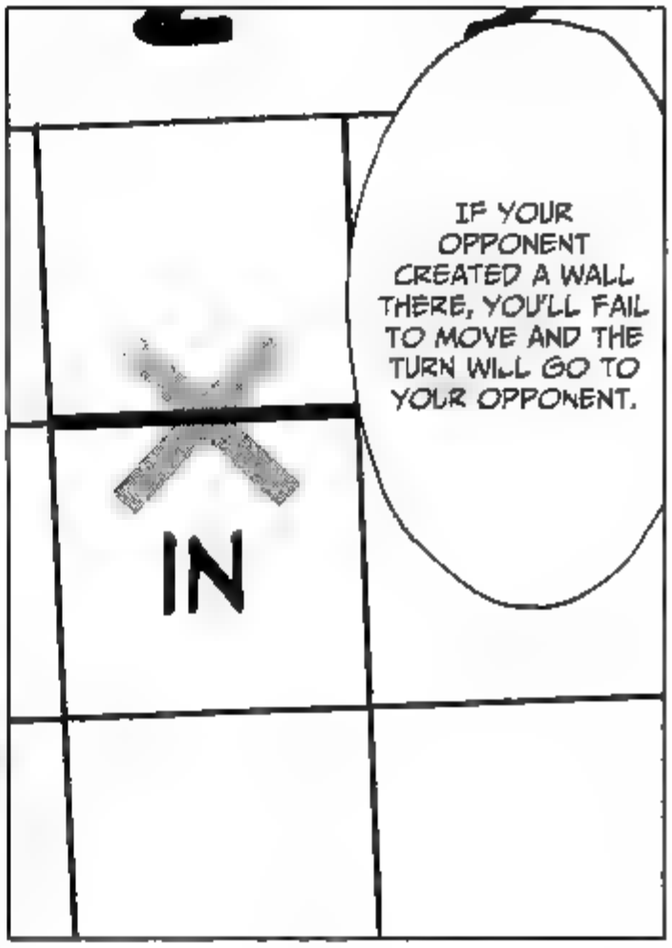

1
2
3
4
A
B
CAN YOU SEE THE NUMBERS AND LETTERS AROUND THE CELLS?

NEXT, YOU SHOULD KNOW HOW TO TRAVERSE THE MAZE.


FOR EXAMPLE, YOU CALL OUT "A2".
1
2
3
4
A
B
C
IN
AFTER DECIDING WHO PLAYS FIRST, HE WILL START FROM ENTRANCE AND MOVE TO A NEIGHBORING CELL OF HIS CHOICE.

OTHERWISE, YOU CAN MAKE CONSECUTIVE MOVES UNTIL YOU ENCOUNTER A WALL.


AVOID THE WALLS AND PLUSH FORTH ON THE CORRECT PATH...
IN
OUT


IF YOUR OPPONENT CREATED A WALL THERE, YOU'LL FAIL TO MOVE AND THE TURN WILL GO TO YOUR OPPONENT.
IN

KAJI-KUN... IF YOU WIN,
YOU WILL GET...
!
WHOEVER REACHES THE EXIT FIRST, WINS.
OUT
ONE HUNDRED MILLION YEN.

IT...
IT HAS
EMERGED.

"MONEY"

THE
GREAT
DEMON
KING WHO
CONTROLS
THIS
WORLD,

.....

第85話 無限のチャンス

Chapter 85 Infinite Chances

I SHOULD BE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT...
WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER I WIN AT THIS LABYRINTH...
RIGHT NOW,
CALM DOWN...

WHETHER OR NOT I CAN TAKE THIS MONEY AND RETURN IN ONE PIECE.

BUT... IF BY ANY CHANCE...
AT THE MOMENT, THIS MAN SHOWS NO SIGNS OF USING ANY SORT OF VIOLENCE...
HE RESORTS TO BRUTE FORCE...

IF BAKU-SAN AND HIS FOLKS GET INTO SOME ACCIDENT,
AND THEY LOSE TRACK OF ME AND LEAVE ME ALL ALONE, I WILL BE ABSOLUTELY POWERLESS...

JUDGING FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN SO FAR, THE CHANCES OF HIM USING BRUTE FORCE IS AS LOW AS IT CAN BE...
I WON'T BE ABLE TO... FIGHT BACK.
STILL, I WOULD LIKE SOME INSURANCE FOR ANYTHING UNEXPECTED...
KAJI-KUN, THIS MIGHT BE SUDDEN BUT... ACTUALLY
UH... UHM
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD ABOUT THE REFEREES?
BY THE WAY...

AH... I SEE
I GUESS YOU DON'T KNOW THEM...
.....
I DON'T THINK YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS IS ABOUT RIGHT AWAY, BUT...
THERE'S AN ORGANIZATION CALLED CLUB KAKEROU.
WELL,
I AM ONE OF THE MEMBERS.
THEIR PRESENCE ALSO ELIMINATES ANY UNSETTLED TRANSACTIONS AFTER YOUR VICTORY THAT MAY RESULT FROM AN OPPONENT'S DISHONESTY.
WHEN YOU BECOME A MEMBER, THE PEOPLE WE CALL REFEREES HANDLE MUTUAL AGREEMENT ON THE RULES AND WATCH OVER THE GAME ITSELF FROM A NEUTRAL STANDPOINT.

DIS-
HONESTY?
DIS...
HONES-
TY
YOU'RE
A...
I'VE BEEN
OFFERED THIS
OPPORTUNITY,
THIS HAS BEEN
MY STANDPOINT
EVER SINCE
THE BEGINNING
I HAVE
NOTHING,
BUT HE HAS
A HUNDRED
MILLION...
YOU...
I...
I'M JUST
SAYING THAT
SUCH AN
ORGANIZATION
EXISTS.
P... PLEASE
DON'T TAKE
IT PERSON-
ALLY.
OH
SHIT...!
DID I
AGGRAVATE
HIM?!

OR RATHER,
YOU'RE ALSO KAKEROU MEMBER LIKE ME...

WHAT THE...?!
SUCH COINCI-DENCE.
WHA...
I AM A MEMBER OF THAT CLUB KAKEROU AS WELL.
TO BE HONEST, KAJ.-KUN,
I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT KAKEROU FROM YOU.
THIS MAN...
THERE WAS A DOCUMENT KEPT INSIDE A BANK'S SAFE DEPOSIT BOX WITH THE RIGHTS TO...
IN THE FORTUNE THAT MY PARENTS LEFT BEHIND...
"KAKEROU MEMBERSHIP."

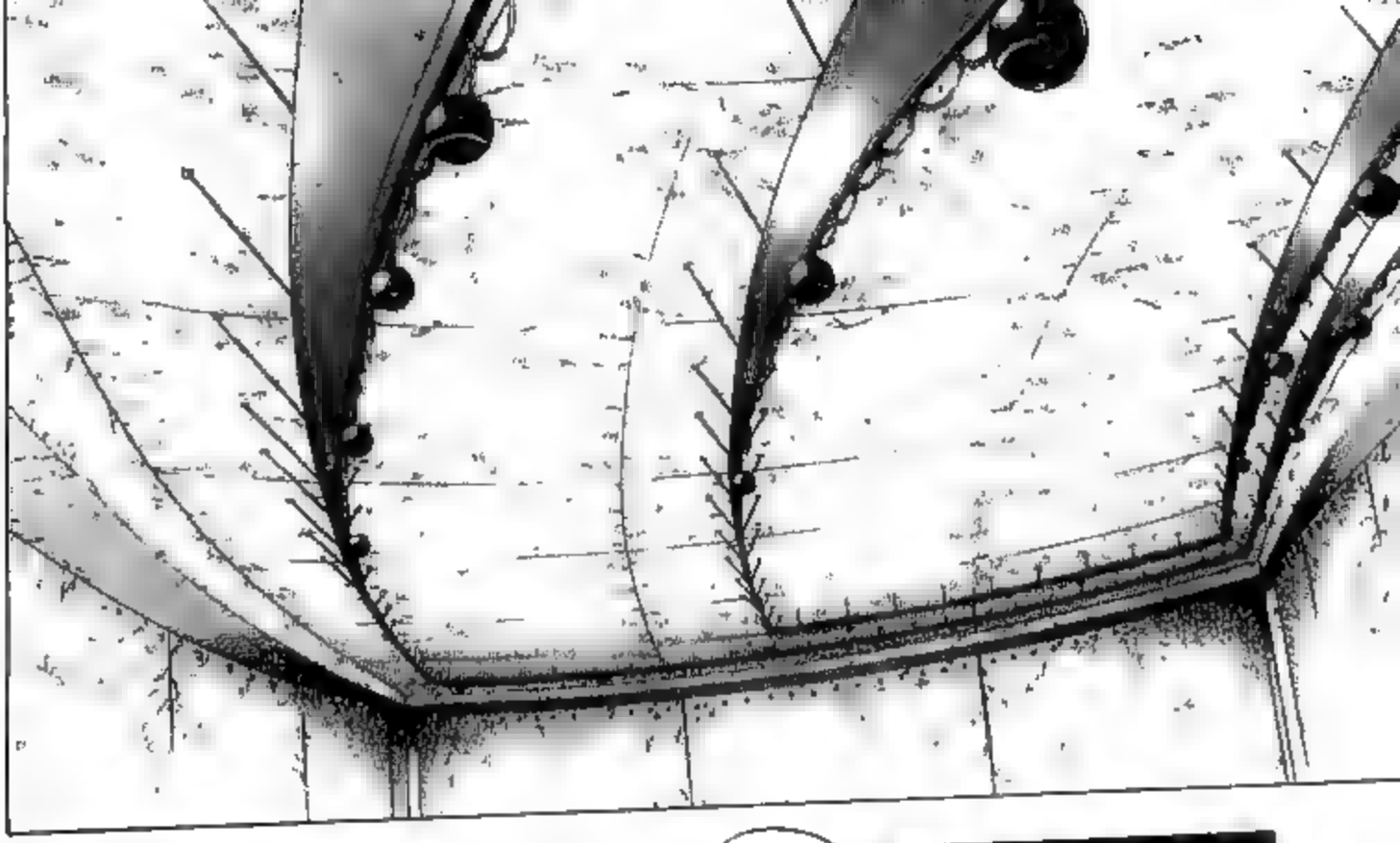
THIS MAN IS ALSO...
A KAKEROU MEMBER?

HE DOESN'T HAVE THAT SUSPICIOUSNESS LIKE THE OTHER MEMBERS I'VE MET SO FAR...
ACTUALLY, I HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THIS SITUATION.

EVEN IF HE SAYS HE IS ONE,
BUT WHAT'S THIS FEELING ...

I AM NOT REALLY PLEASED WITH MY EXCLUSIVE REFEREE... WE *DIFFER* IN MANY ASPECTS.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
BOTH SIDES SHOULD HAVE THEIR EXCLUSIVE REFEREES BY THEIR SIDES...
THERE IS A *KNOWN* ESTABLISHED RULE REGARDING THE GAMES BETWEEN TWO MEMBERS...

IF YOU AGREE, WE SHOULD CALL A NEUTRAL REFEREE,
THAT'S WHY, KAJI-KUN... I WAS THINKING...
AH.
YES. I UNDER-S'AND WHAT YOU MEAN.
IT IS NECESSARY FOR THIS GAME...
I HOPE YOU ARE OKAY WITH THIS BECAUSE...
WHO IS NEITHER OF OUR EXCLUSIVE REFEREES.
ANY OBJECTIONS ...
YES.. I DON'T MIND.
YEAH...
I DON'T HAVE..



THE STAKES ARE...
WELL, THEN...
THE GAME IS "LABYRINTH".

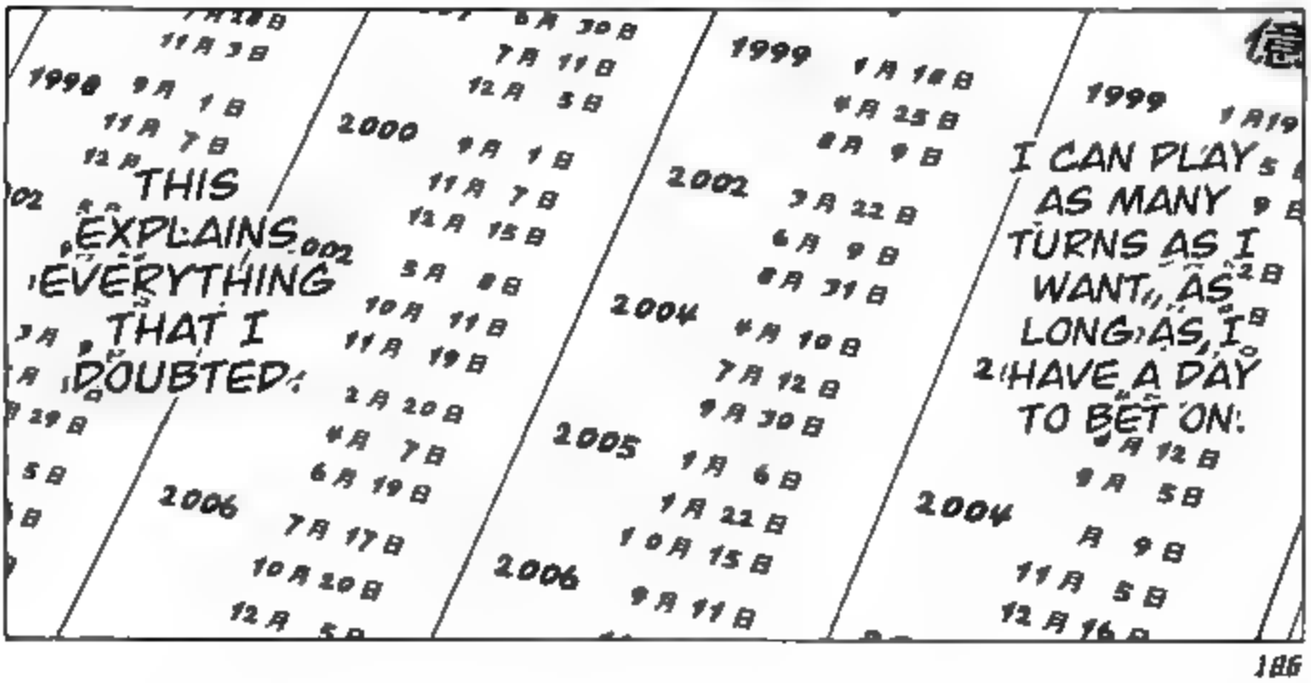
THE MEMORIES OF NOVEMBER 5TH, 2004 AND ONE HUNDRED MILLION YEN.

THIS IS WHAT BOTH SIDES...
HAVE AGREED ON.
REFEREE NUMBER 16,
KADOKURA YUUDAI.

.....
I HAVE NO PROBLEMS AS LONG AS THE USE OF BRUTE FORCE IS BANNED BY THE RULES.
LIKE I SAID,
RIGHT

.....
AND WANTS TO PUT ON STAKES, WE CAN DISCUSS ITS WORTH.
IT'S OKAY FOR ME TOO. WELL, EACH TIME KAJI-CHAN REMEMBERS DETAILS OF A DATE...

I DON'T HAVE ONLY ONE SHOT AT THIS GAME.
I... I SEE.


THIS EXPLAINS EVERYTHING THAT I DOUBTED.
I CAN PLAY AS MANY TURNS AS I WANT, AS LONG AS I HAVE A DAY TO BET ON.

UPON THE REFEREE'S ARRIVAL, SAFETY OF MY BODY HAS BEEN ASSURED.
WELL... EVEN BEFORE THAT, WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT...
THIS MAN DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO USE BRUTE FORCE FROM THE START.
THIS REALLY IS THE TASTY GAMBLE I CAN PLAY WITHOUT ANY MONEY... FURTHER MORE,
I HAVE INFINITE CHANCES.

THIS IS A GREAT OPPOR-TUNITY...
JUST BY ACCOMPANYING A WEALTHY GUY IN HIS HOBBY...
.....
A GENUINE URBAN LEGEND ...
I CAN SNATCH LOTS OF MONEY!

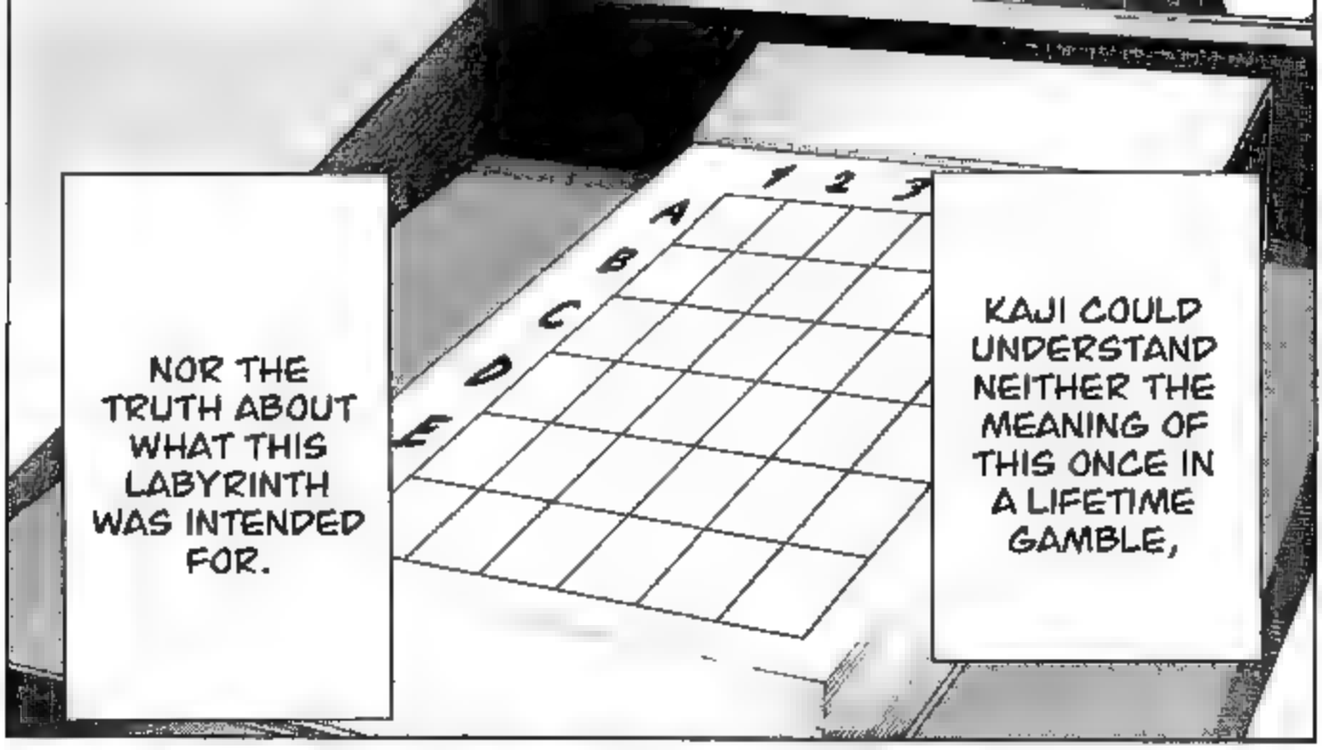
SO THEN, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
SHALL WE START NOW?
AH.
PLEASE WAIT A SECOND.

MY NAME IS YUKIIDE KAORU.
NICE TO MEET YOU, KAJI-KUN.

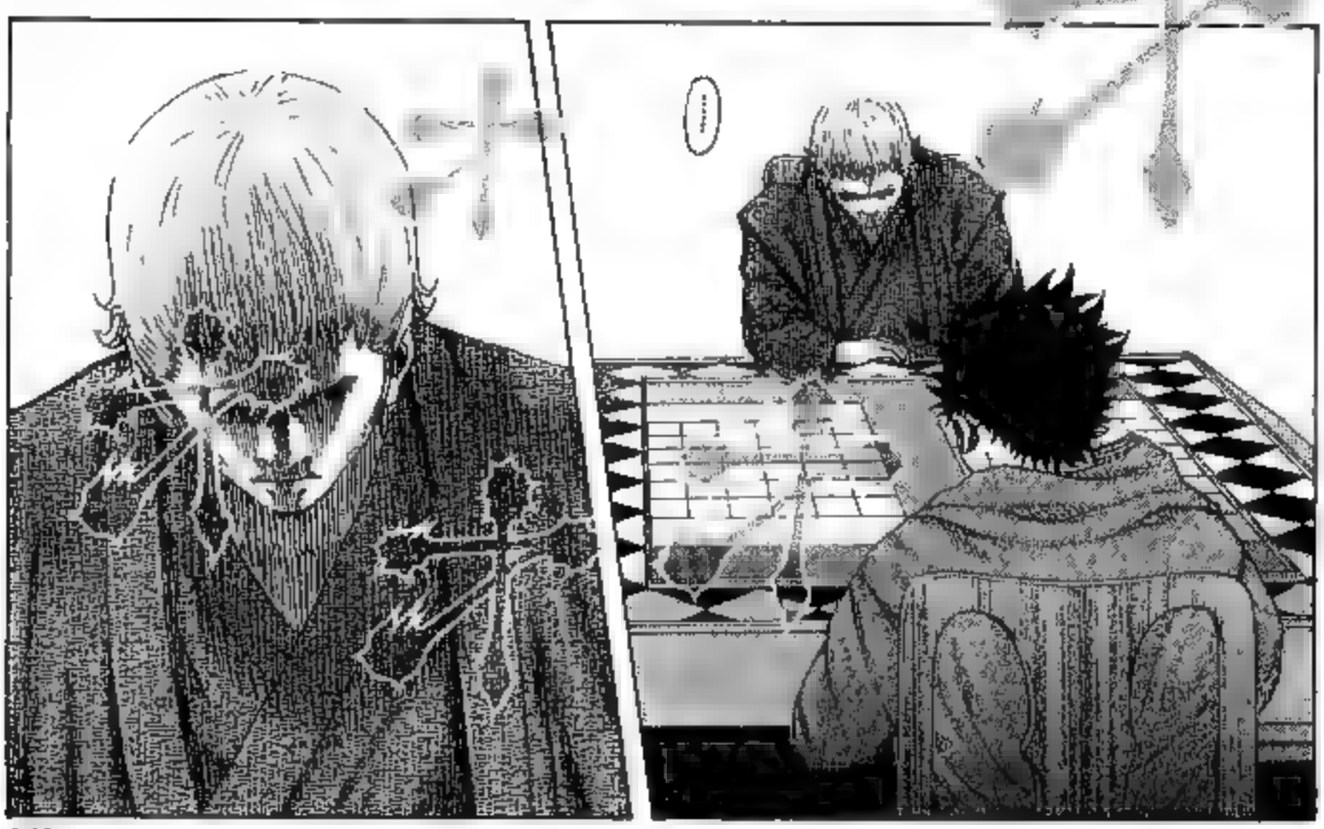
PLEASE TELL ME.
THIS MAY BE A LITTLE LATE BUT...

....
RIGHT
YOUR NAME.
I STILL DON'T KNOW...

NOW THEN, I, KADOKU-RA
VOW TO CONDUCT A TROUBLE-FREE GAME.
LET'S BEGIN.
BE-CAUSE OF THAT
PREPA-RATIONS WERE PERFECT.


KAJI COULD UNDERSTAND NEITHER THE MEANING OF THIS ONCE IN A LIFETIME GAMBLE,
NOR THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT THIS LABYRINTH WAS INTENDED FOR.
1 2 3
A
B
C
D
E

DRAW THE WALLS HERE FIRST.
HMM, I THINK I SHOULD...
4 5 6


...

...HE'S
HE...
.....
!
VAGRANT.
YOU DAMN

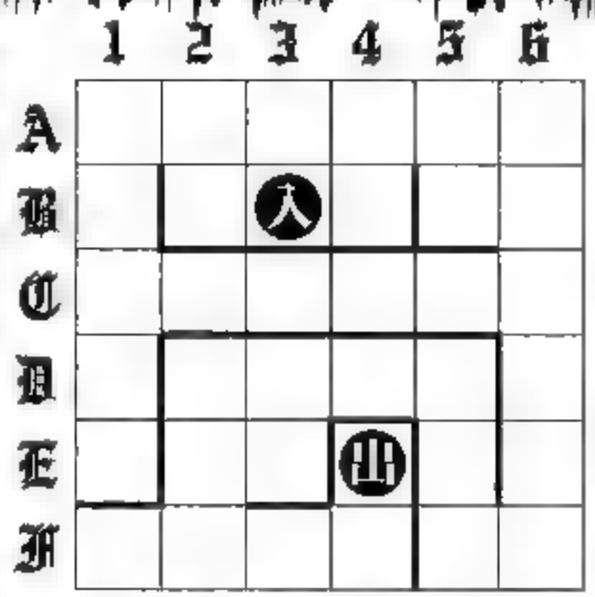
LABYRINTH

A MAZE IS PREPARED BY POSITIONING AN ENTRANCE AND AN EXIT, THEN ADDING 20 WALLS ON A 6 BY 6 GRID

WHEN THE OPPONENT IS INFORMED ABOUT THE LOCATION OF THE ENTRANCE AND EXIT, THE GAME BEGINS.

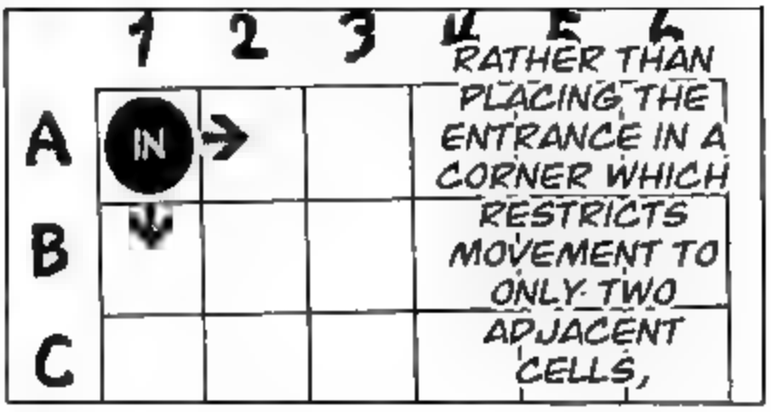
HOWEVER, THE CATCH IS THAT THE MAZE MUST HAVE AT LEAST ONE POSSIBLE SOLUTION.

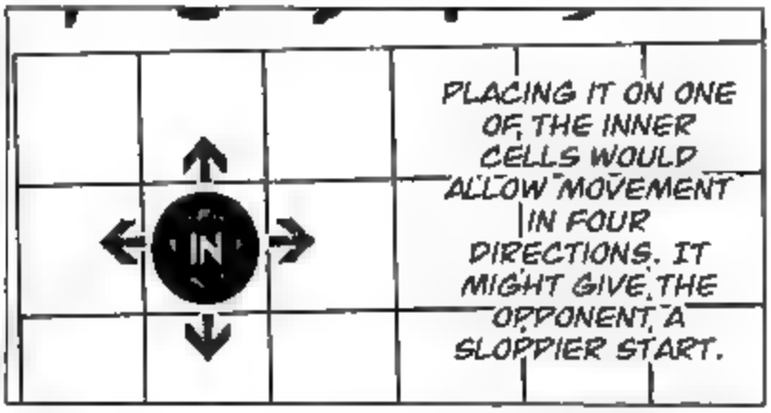
THE WINNER IS THE FIRST ONE TO SOLVE OPPONENT'S MAZE AND REACH THE EXIT

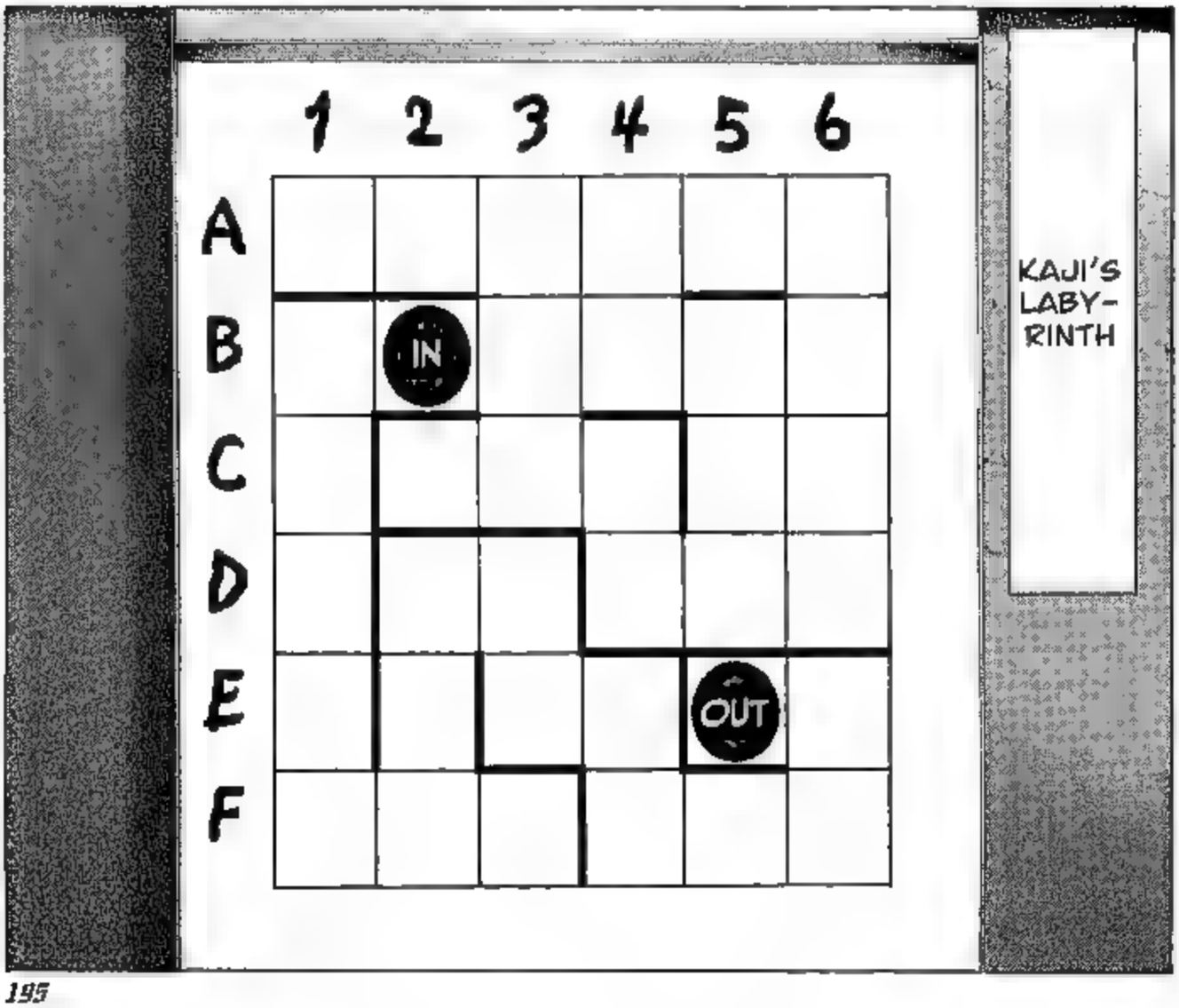


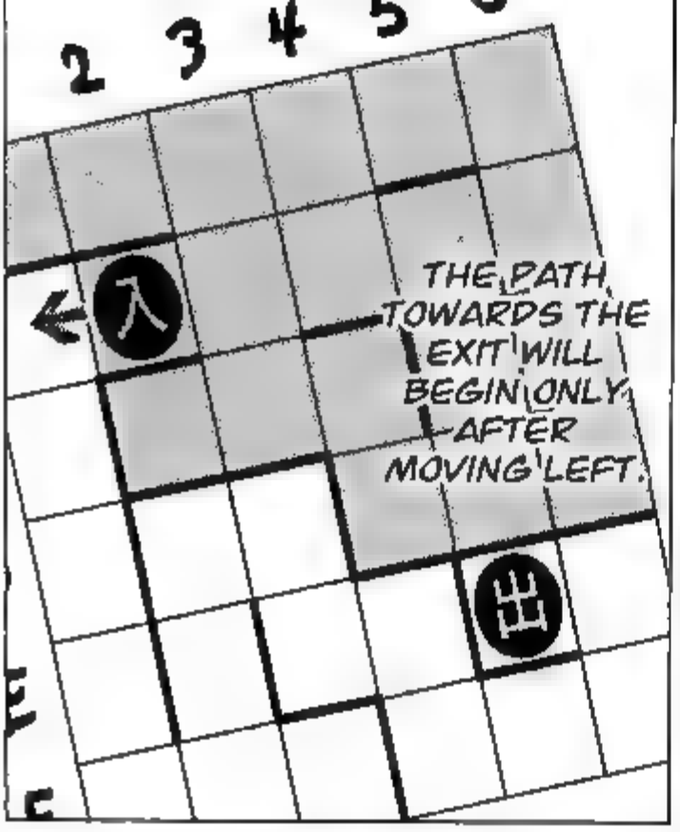
LABYRINTH CREATION

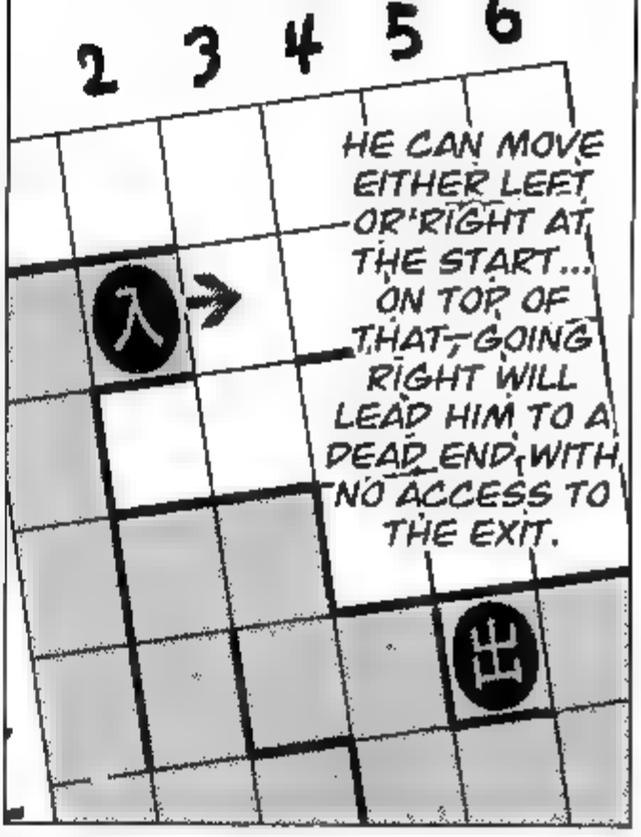
OKAY ...
I JUST HAVE TO PLACE
THE ENTRANCE AND EXIT, THEN I'M DONE


1 2 3 4 5 6
A
B
C
IN
RATHER THAN PLACING THE ENTRANCE IN A CORNER WHICH RESTRICTS MOVEMENT TO ONLY TWO ADJACENT CELLS,

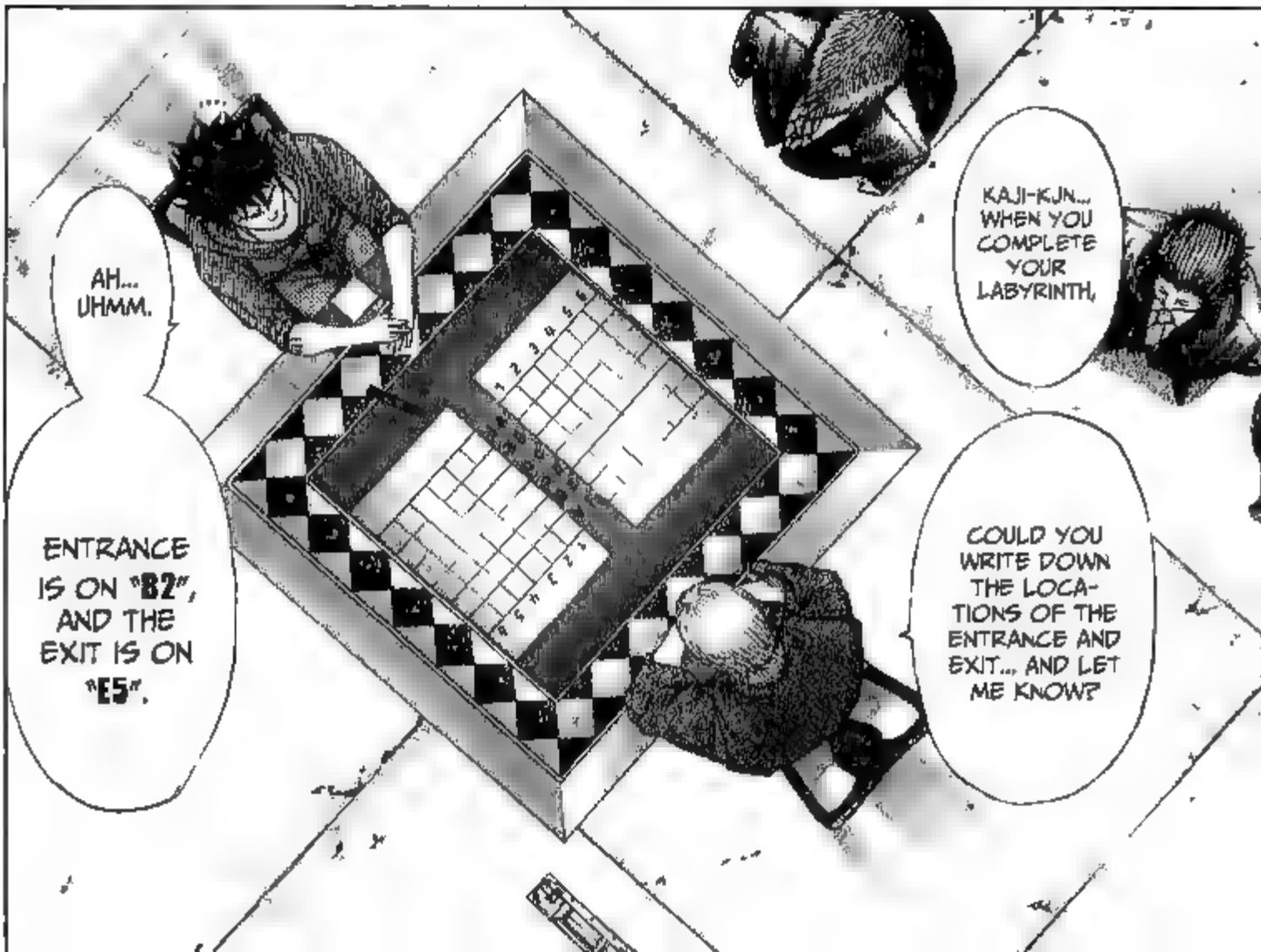

IN
PLACING IT ON ONE OF THE INNER CELLS WOULD ALLOW MOVEMENT IN FOUR DIRECTIONS. IT MIGHT GIVE THE OPPONENT A SLOPPIER START.

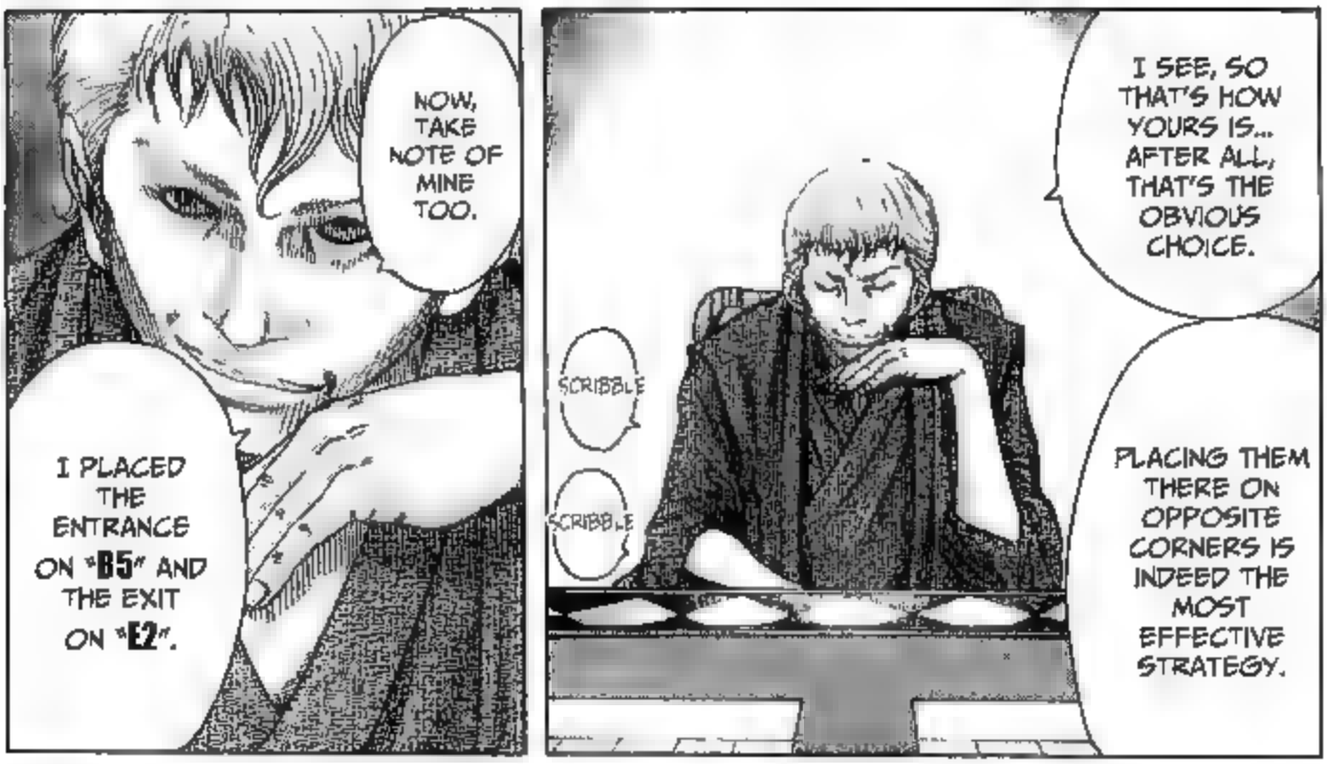

1 2 3 4 5 6
A
B
C
D
E
F
IN
OUT
KAJI'S LABY-RINTH

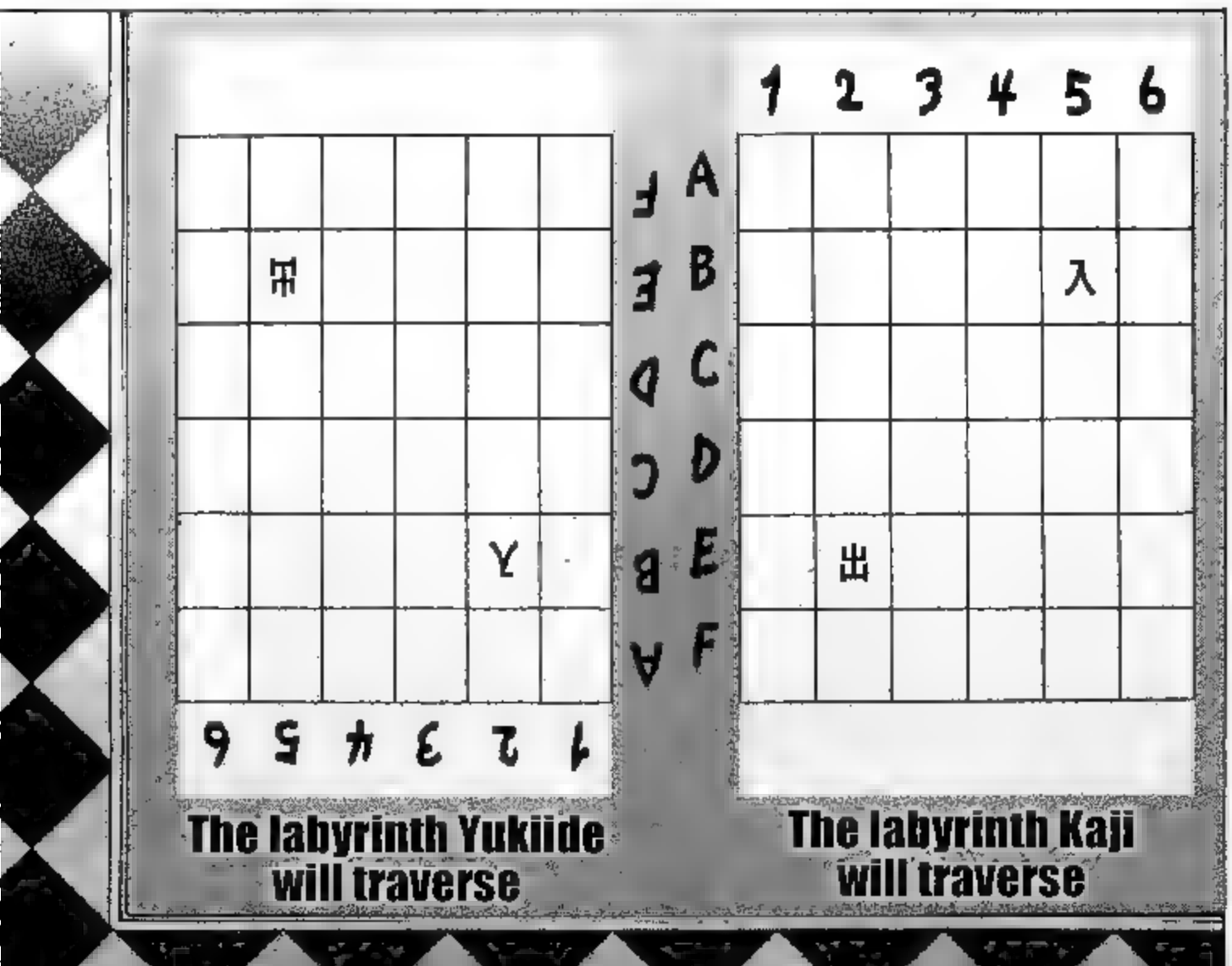

2 3 4 5 6
入
出
THE PATH TOWARDS THE EXIT WILL BEGIN ONLY AFTER MOVING LEFT.


2 3 4 5 6
入
出
HE CAN MOVE EITHER LEFT OR RIGHT AT THE START... ON TOP OF THAT, GOING RIGHT WILL LEAD HIM TO A DEAD END, WITH NO ACCESS TO THE EXIT.

.....
LET'S TRY THIS OUT FOR THE TIME BEING...

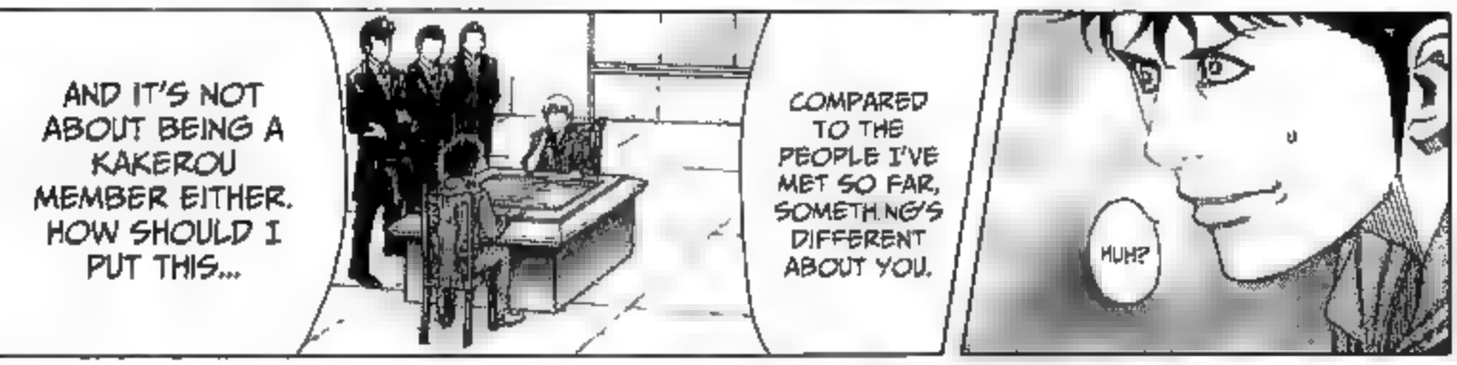

AH... UHMM.
ENTRANCE IS ON "B2", AND THE EXIT IS ON "E5".
KAJI-KUN... WHEN YOU COMPLETE YOUR LABYRINTH,
COULD YOU WRITE DOWN THE LOCATIONS OF THE ENTRANCE AND EXIT... AND LET ME KNOW?


NOW, TAKE NOTE OF MINE TOO.
I PLACED THE ENTRANCE ON "B5" AND THE EXIT ON "E2".
I SEE, SO THAT'S HOW YOURS IS... AFTER ALL, THAT'S THE OBVIOUS CHOICE.
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
PLACING THEM THERE ON OPPOSITE CORNERS IS INDEED THE MOST EFFECTIVE STRATEGY.


1 2 3 4 5 6
A B C D E F
The labyrinth Kaji will traverse
The labyrinth Yukiide will traverse

WE'LL SUBMIT OUR LABYRINTHS ENCLOSED IN THIS BOOK, MAKING SURE THE OPPONENT DOESN'T SEE THEM.
YEP, EXACTLY
THIS WILL ALLOW ME TO JUDGE THE GAME WHILE CHECKING THEM.
AT THE SAME TIME.
WHEN YOU OPEN THE NOTEBOOK, YOU CAN SEE BOTH LABYRINTHS
slide
NOW THEN...
slide

KAJI-KUN...
I GUESS THIS IS OBVIOUS, BUT I'M FILTHY RICH...
WHILE I'M CONSCI-OUS ABOUT THAT, I CAN ALSO FEEL SOME-THING ELSE.


HUH?
COMPARED TO THE PEOPLE I'VE MET SO FAR, SOMETHING'S DIFFERENT ABOUT YOU.
AND IT'S NOT ABOUT BEING A KAKEROU MEMBER EITHER. HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS...

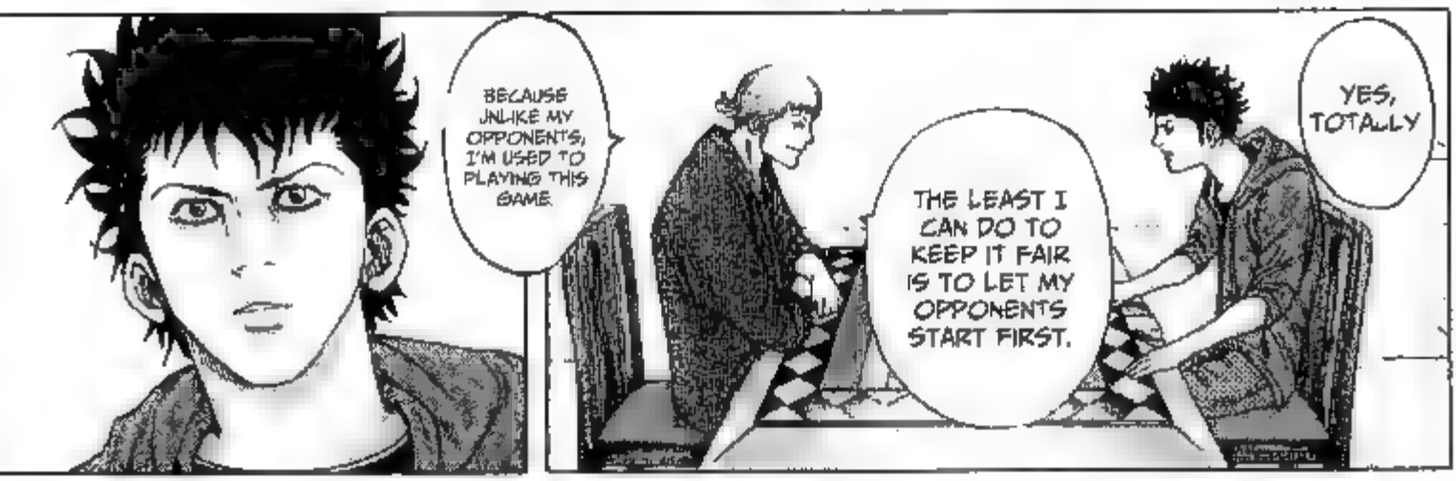
THOSE WHO CAME SO FAR WERE ALL GREEDY BASTARDS.
ALL OF THEM SEEMED LIKE THEY FAKED THE DAYS THEY BET ON OUT OF THEIR LUST FOR MONEY.
COMPARED TO THEM, YOU DUG UP YOUR MEMORIES EARNESTLY.
AND LET ME HEAR ONE OF YOUR REAL EXPERIENCES.
.....
FOR ME, THAT ALONE IS WORTH BETTING A HUNDRED MILLION.

I WANT YOU TO WIN THE GAME AND GET THE MONEY.
NEEDLESS TO SAY, I'M NOT PLANNING TO LOSE.
BUT, AT THE SAME TIME,

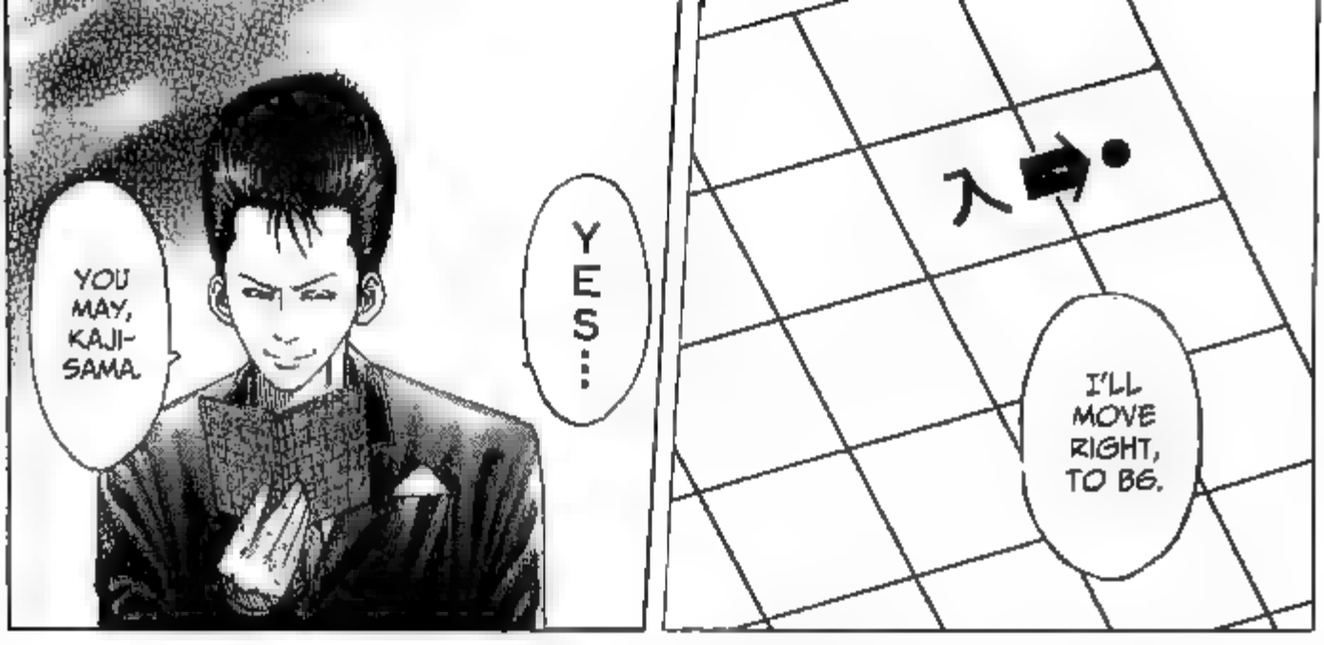
PLEASE PREPARE A COPY OF THESE FOR US.
THEN, REFEREE KADOKURA.

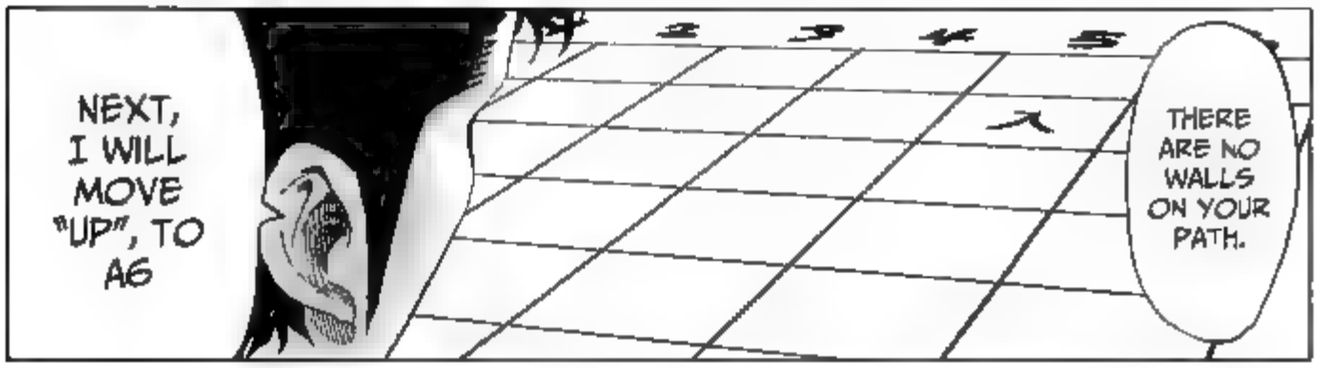
AS YOU WISH, SIR.
……

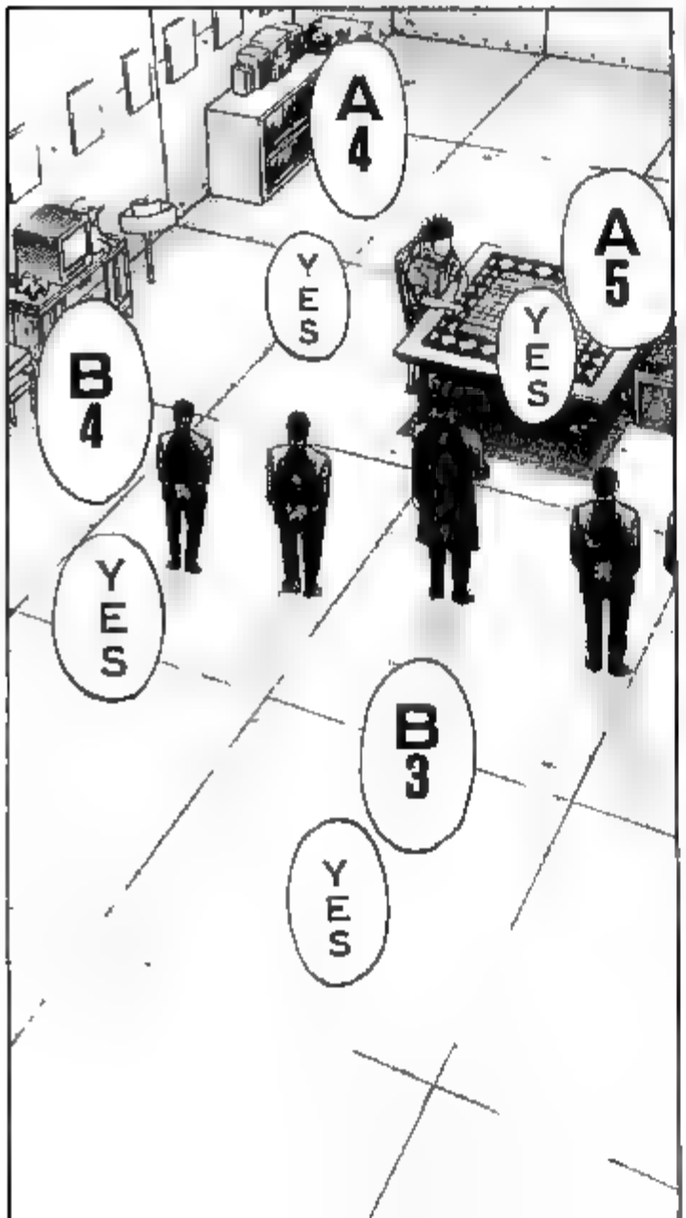
EHH ?
IS THAT ALRIGHT?


BECAUSE UNLIKE MY OPPONENTS, I'M USED TO PLAYING THIS GAME.
THE LEAST I CAN DO TO KEEP IT FAIR IS TO LET MY OPPONENTS START FIRST.
YES, TOTALLY

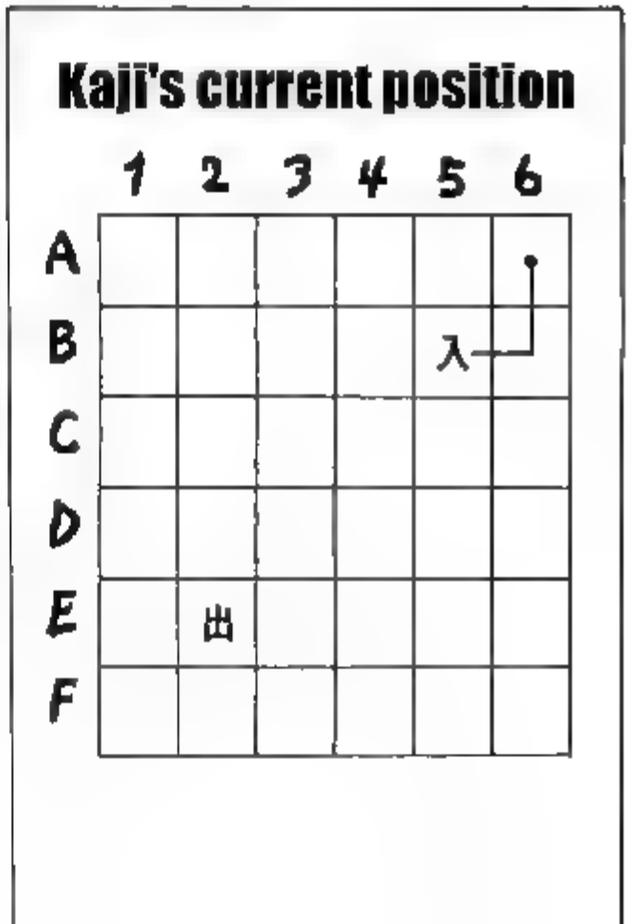
FIRST OF ALL, HE MUST BE THINKING OF FORCING ME TO DETOUR... SO, I SHOULD MOVE IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS, EITHER UP OR RIGHT.
THIS LAYOUT... IS JUST LIKE MINE... FOUR POSSIBLE CHOICES IN THE BEGINNING
ALL RIGHT... HERE I GO...


YOU MAY, KAJI-SAMA.
YES...
I'LL MOVE RIGHT, TO B6.

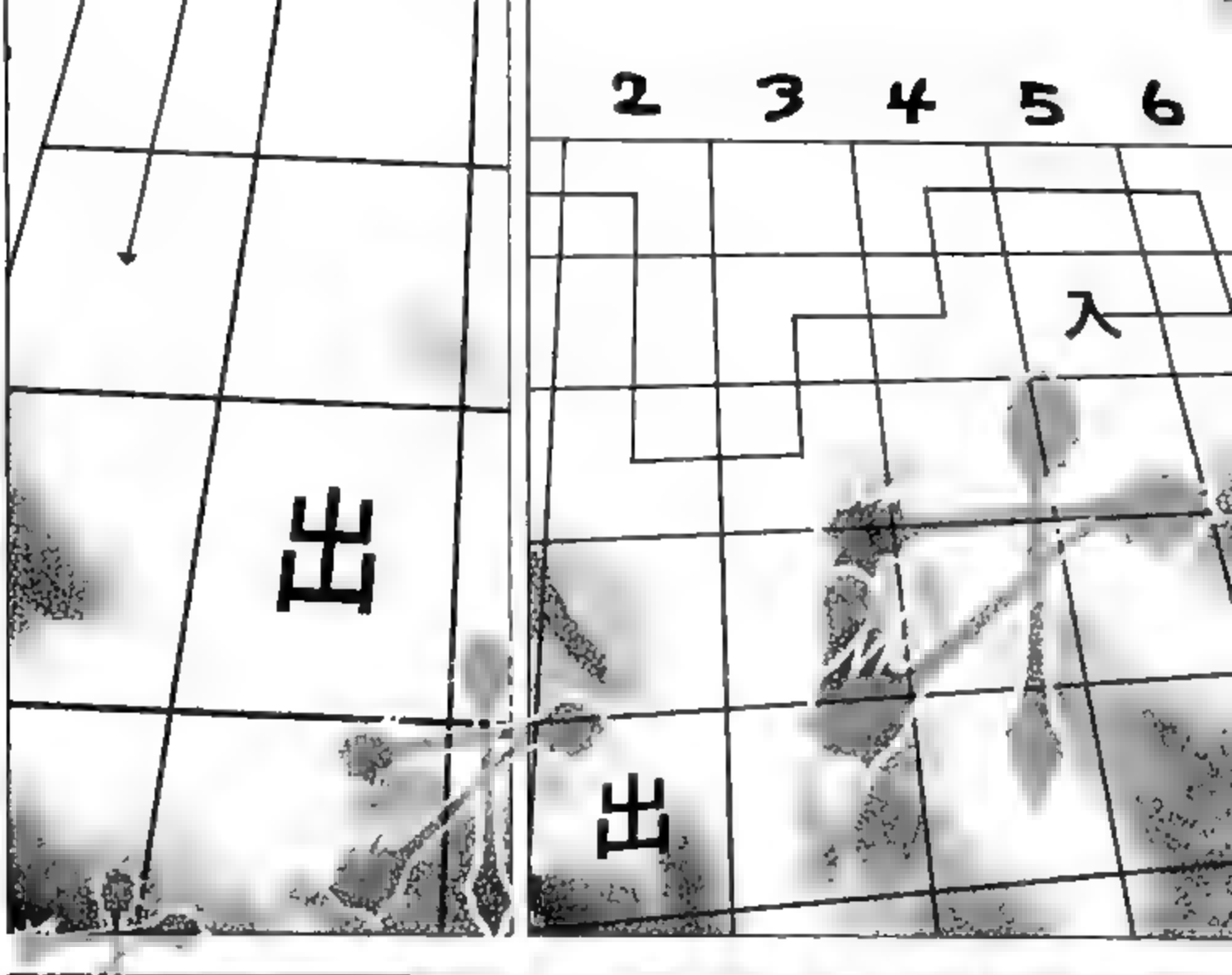

NEXT, I WILL MOVE "UP", TO A6
THERE ARE NO WALLS ON YOUR PATH.


A4
A5
B4
B3
YES
YES
YES
YES

PROCEED, KAJI-SAMA.


Kaji's current position
1 2 3 4 5 6
A
B
C
D
E
F
入
出

KAJI NOTICED THAT... ON THIS VERY DAY
C...3
HE IS
EXCEL-LING...
OH MAN...
C3.. IS OKAY TO GO.

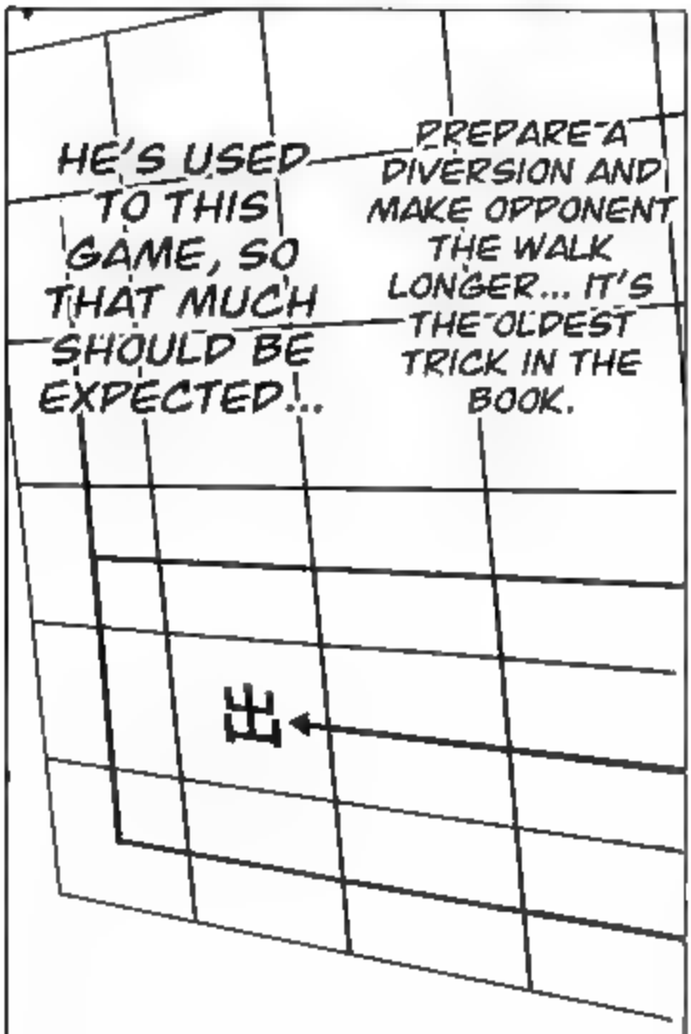

2 3 4 5 6
入
出
出

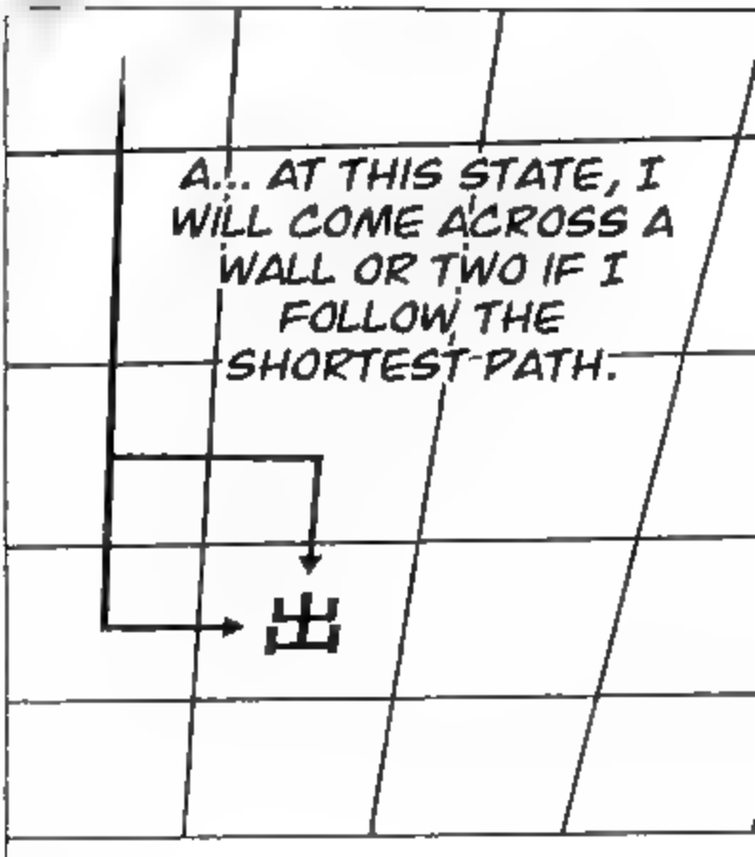
A... ALL OF A SUDDEN!
I'M ALREADY ALMOST AT THE EXIT... IN A SINGLE ROUND!

A... HUNDRED MILLION...
I JUST GOT A LITTLE ANXIOUS AND TOPPLED IT... PLEASE DON'T MIND.
OOPS, SORRY.
A HUNDRED MILLION.
THAT CASE HOLDS...
THE MONEY
IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.
DON'T LET THE MONEY DISTRACT YOU...
MY MIND SAYS THAT BUT...

OVERWHELMING PRESSURE!
THIS IS SUCH AN...

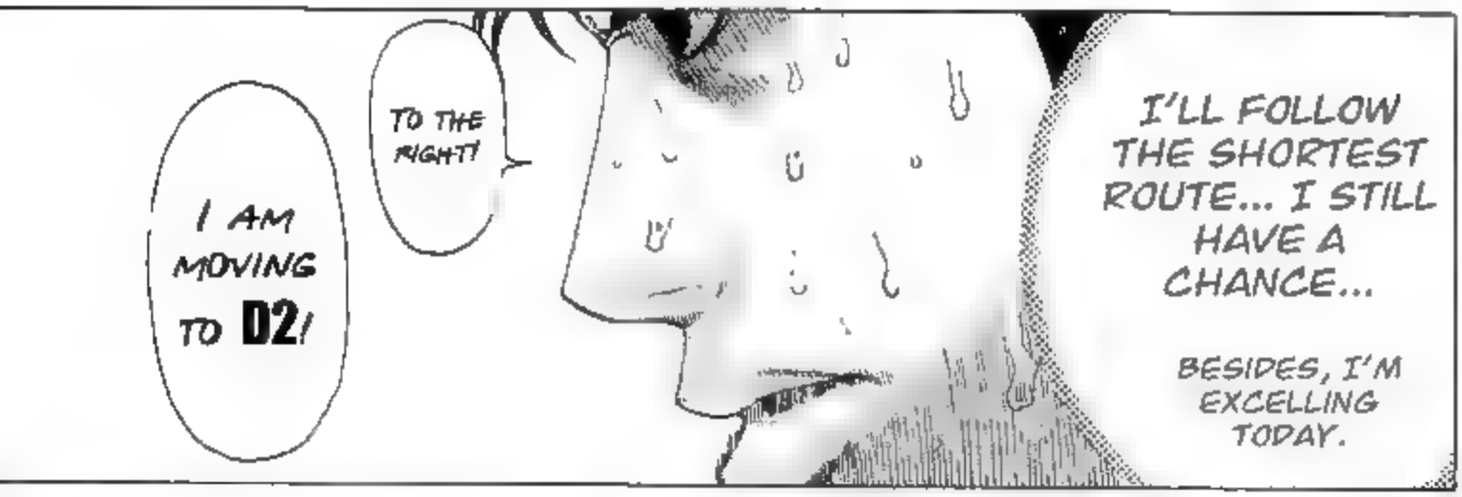
C... COOL DOWN...
AFTER ALL THIS TIME, MAYBE BECAUSE OF THE HUGE SUM... MY WHOLE BODY IS NOW AWARE OF IT.


HE'S USED TO THIS GAME, SO THAT MUCH SHOULD BE EXPECTED...
PREPARE A DIVERSION AND MAKE OPPONENT THE WALK LONGER... IT'S THE OLDEST TRICK IN THE BOOK.


A... AT THIS STATE, I WILL COME ACROSS A WALL OR TWO IF I FOLLOW THE SHORTEST PATH.

ARGH, OVER THINKING WON'T GIVE ME THE ANSWER... I SHOULD KEEP IT SIMPLE...

WAIT A SECOND HE'S USED TO IT, THAT'S EXACTLY WHY THE OPPOSITE MIGHT BE

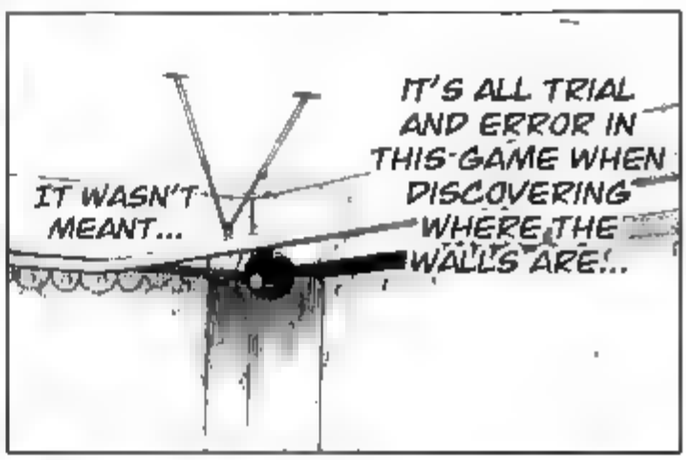

I AM MOVING TO D2!
TO THE RIGHT!
I'LL FOLLOW THE SHORTEST ROUTE... I STILL HAVE A CHANCE...
BESIDES, I'M EXCELLING TODAY.

THERE'S A WALL THERE. IN OTHER WORDS...
D2... OOH, I'M SORRY SAY THIS, KAJI-SAMA...
!!
IT'S A FAIL.

IT SURE IS RARE TO [redacted] SOMEONE GET THIS CLOSE IN ONE TURN.
OH MAN, IT WAS A CLOSE CALL.
OH MY, YOU'RE AMAZING KAJI-KUN.

IT WOULD'VE BEEN TOO BAD FOR HIM IF I FINISHED IN THE FIRST ROUND, AND ABOVE ALL ELSE..
THIS FAILURE WAS EXPECTED..
I FAILED, EH...
I MIGHT'VE FREAKED OUT A LITTLE...
BUT I MOVED MORE THAN I NEED AT THE FIRST TURN.

MY LABYRINTH IS PROBABLY A DIFFICULT ONE TOO.


IT WASN'T MEANT...
IT'S ALL TRIAL AND ERROR IN THIS GAME WHEN DISCOVERING WHERE THE WALLS ARE!..

SO, IT'S MY TURN.
...TO END THIS QUICKLY.

I PLAN TO WIN THIS THING!
THIS TIME, ON MY NEXT TURN

THIS GAME...

USOGUI'S DISCIPLE... KAJI.
WILL BE YOUR LOSS...

E5 IS OKAY,
THERE ISN'T A WALL.
AW YEAH...
I JUST WON THE GAME...
YOU REACHED THE GOAL. IT'S YUKIIDE-SAMA'S WIN.
I SOLVED THE LABYRINTH FIRST... HEHEH...
BYE-BYE, KAJI-KUN.
8完
TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 9

USOGUI
SIDE STORY

DEBT COLLECTOR YAKOU HIKOICHI

FROM KAKEROU.

SHOULD I RESIGN?

I HAVE LOST THE PASSION THAT I HAD FROM THE BEGINNING, AND I'M TIRED OF ACTING LIKE A GENTLEMAN.

I HAVE ALWAYS GOTTEN TIRED OF THINGS EASILY.

フゥ～

THAT I WILL BE COMMANDED BY A MAN LIKE THIS IN THE FUTURE,

GU HE HE HE

TELLING ME TO DO SOME IMPOSSIBLE THINGS.

AND THE BUSINESS OF THE CAFE HASN'T BEEN GOING WELL..

MORE IMPOR-TANTLY, I HAVE A FEELING

I DEFINITELY WILL! I REALLY HAVE A FEELING LIKE THAT.

AND SOMEHOW I DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO DRAW THIS.

I DON'T HAVE THE ENERGY THAT I HAD BEFORE ANYMORE... GENERALLY SPEAKING, IS THERE A MEANING TO DRAWING THIS?

NOBODY WILL SEE THIS ANYWAY, SO ISN'T IT JUST FINE TO STOP DRAWING THIS?

I HEARD THAT IF YOU LEAVE KAKEROU, YOU WILL BE KILLED...

BUT~

"I WANT TO RESIGN."

"SURE, BUT WE WILL KILL YOU..."

"OH, OK. BUT I WON'T LET YOU KILL ME THAT EASILY."

...LIKE THIS.

IS THERE A COMPANY LIKE THIS?

I HAVE MADE UP MY MIND...

I'M GOING TO RUN...

NO, SOMETHING LIKE THAT IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.

TO BE CONTINUED